

ASIAN GAY LITERATURE

**an annotated
bibliography**

ASIAN GAY LITERATURE:
an annotated bibliography
of modern LGBTQ works of literary fiction and biography,
arranged by country

Alex Spence

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For

郭桂榮

Kevin Kwok Kwai Wing,

always

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INTRODUCTION

Audience

In seeking entertainment, understanding, or change, one can follow different routes. To be a participant, as a reader or writer, in storytelling is one pathway.

This document has a modest goal. It means to provide interested LGBTQ readers of various Asian heritages with a starting point for finding LGBTQ literature related to their own cultural backgrounds.

(The list may also interest those Baconian Spiders who use (normally unacknowledged) the labour inherent in assembling mundane lists as this for a shortcut towards their theoretical spinnings. Users of that sort who are engaging in issues surrounding the translation of LGBTQ works across and within cultures and countries would also want to see Queer in Translation (B.J. Epstein and Robert Gillett, eds.; London: Routledge, 2017)).

Arrangement

Primary listing is by country, with countries arranged **roughly** geographically, from east to west. Within country lists, arrangement is alphabetical by author (by title, for edited works).

Country placement is determined mainly by an author's primary Asian country association, with consideration given to subject/setting of a work. (A few difficulties are pointed out in notes; see, for example, introductions, particularly at China and also at Singapore).

Literature divisions of a geographical sort are arguable. On the one hand, each literary work is peculiar to its author and each has a unique effect on the individual reader. The division is also unnatural in the sense that borders are – cultural and language similarities and differences occur both within and across Asian boundaries, and between Asian countries and their non-Asian diasporas.

However, for this bibliography, division by country of residence/heritage **was** chosen as the primary sorting criterion, not to blindly carve the LGBTQ global community into ever smaller political parts, but to acknowledge, **in a rough sense**, the effects of origins, which stem not only from cultural, but also significantly from local political and religious differences. The user wanting a broader view can read across the divisions, and beyond those divisions to the global LGBTQ literature.

Inclusions and Limitations

Sources and Inclusion Criteria

Several compilations – older and newer, shorter and longer, broader and narrower of focus – were helpful in putting together this document. See the **Sources** list. Choice of titles for **list** inclusion were based, with **a few ad hoc exceptions** (older, well-known classics such as Mishima and Bai were included, for example), on the following criteria:

- a) the work is identified as concerning LGBTQ persons to some important extent;

- b) the author is identified as local Asian or from the Asian diaspora;
- c) the work, on the basis of a) and b) combined (based on reviews, criticism, awards lists, personal knowledge of the compiler, e.g.), **additionally** carries a clearer focus on an Asian (not a more general, or other cultural) LGBTQ situation or sensibility, either locally or in the diaspora;
- d) the work has ideally been issued in print format (or it may be digital only); and
- e) the work is relatively “modern,” having been published in the 21st century or in the latter years of the 1990s (roughly the last twenty-five years).

Note, however, that country **Introductions**, which provide some background and context, do note some older works not on the lists that follow.

List entries emphasize literary genres (novels, poetry, short stories, biography/memoir), literary anthologies, with some general popular fiction. Included only selectively are the niche popular fiction categories of romance, fantasy, and mystery. (The user particularly interested in those latter genres will, though, find some titles in the bibliography).

A number of **works by non-Asians** are also of potential interest to readers. Those works have not as a rule been included; the user can investigate further. However, several inclusion exceptions have been made, examples being Jackson on Thailand; Collett on Hong Kong’s Leslie Cheung Kwok-wing in the China section; and Michael T. Luongo on the Muslim Middle East (one online article is cited at the opening to the Afghanistan section).

Language

Of the approximately 380 listed works, the majority (approximately 80 per cent) are in **English**, which is either the original language of a title or the language into which a work has been translated. So, the list will be of most practical use to the reader with English language ability.

However, a substantial number of **non-English works** have been included (the other roughly 20 per cent, with some additional references in annotations to English-language translation entries and in section introductions). Those by no means form a comprehensive list, but have been added, **when encountered**, especially for countries which seem to have substantial LGBTQ works mainly in the local language(s), with relatively few translations – Indonesia and Turkey, for example; but also China and South Korea). Additional information in **some** of these cases can be had from country Introductions or from the Sources list. (Any encouragement these might give to translation would be good).

Countries

Asia is a big place. Fifty or so countries embrace all the world’s major religions and a host of different political regimes, languages, traditions, and levels of human rights protection. Asia is also evolving fast, and unevenly. Some works on the list predate important changes – the 2019 same-sex marriage decision in Taiwan; the repeal of Section 377 in India – and present a view from earlier times. Individual works should be noted keeping social evolution in mind.

There is an absence of certain Asian countries from the bibliography. The jurisdictions represented here are about half of the countries of the Asian continent. In assembling the list,

published works from some regions were not encountered. Significant work may exist in local or diaspora magazines, on local or overseas websites, or in underground publications (and those would be more easily tracked, both for represented and unrepresented countries, by those with the necessary language skills).

Among the larger countries which are **not** on the list are Mongolia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Bhutan, the central Asian political units (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan), the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Kuwait. (Trans-Caucasus countries with Asian connections [Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia] were not investigated).

The compiler would like to be corrected for missing any significant items from these areas.

With countries that show a somewhat longer history of contemporary LGBT writing (Japan, India, China), the evolution of tone (characterization, plot, theme) in those works is not dissimilar to what is seen in LGBT writings of Western countries – mid-20th century works largely portrayed homosexuality as part of a sordid underworld or as part of a passing schoolboy / schoolgirl phase preceding marriage, with subsequent developments over the following decades gradually demonstrating more realistic, sympathetic, or non-judgmental presentations.

Brief introductions are given to some country sections, to call attention to a few historical developments by noting the names or works of a small number of early authors. The earlier writers are, though, in general, not included in the alphabetical lists (with a few exceptions made for better-known authors – Yukio Mishima and Mutsuo Takahashi in Japan; Bai Xianying in Taiwan – and for historical overviews, of which two examples are Same-sex Love in India, which notes writings over a period of two thousand years; and Partings at Dawn, which surveys Japan from the 12th to the 20th centuries).

Style of Entry and Other Notes

When a work is listed as an English **translation**, the original language and title (or title transliteration for non-Roman script languages), are given, if readily at hand.

When a listed title was found only in a **non-English** language, entry is made in the original language (or in transliteration), with English-language title translation in brackets, if available.

The large number of different scripts for Asian languages necessitated the use of transliterations for some entries. The OCLC WorldCat catalog frequently provides a record that includes author, title and imprint information in the normal script of the language of the work, whether that be Chinese; Japanese; Korean; Persian; Arabic; one of the various languages of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka; or another Asian language.

Magazines (Words Without Borders Magazine and titles of similar goals) offer translations of works or excerpts to English. Some WWBM references have been included. This and other magazines are useful to follow as complements to the list.

Pagination and ISBNs are noted, the first for a sense of physical size and the second as finding aids. (There may be other ISBNs for a work, in addition to the one(s) noted on the list).

Quotations/comments are acknowledged in abbreviated form. See Sources list for full citations.

Use online union catalogues (such as OCLC WorldCat) for additional information about works.

Personal judgements on inclusion are reflected in this list. Suggestions or corrections are welcomed.

Hong Kong

January 24, 2020 (猪年, 十二月三十日)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASIA and Asian diaspora (geographically broader works)

Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay and Lesbian Experience.

Edited by Russell Leong. New York: Routledge, 1996.
(254 p.; ISBN 9780415914369, etc.)

Anthology of fiction and non-fiction.

“[P]ersonal essays, articles of literary and film criticism, roundtable discussions, and works of fiction and poetry” (from Publisher synopsis; see OCLC WorldCat record for Table of Contents).

Best Gay Asian Erotica. Edited by Joël Barraquiel Tan.

San Francisco: Cleis Press, 2004.
(252 p.; ISBN 9781573441841)

Anthology of short stories.

“...with settings as diverse as a bamboo grove in China and a sleepy crank caller’s Los Angeles apartment...brings together stories...each with a queer Asian man as the focus of desire” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East. By Benjamin Law.

Collingwood, Vic. [Australia]: Black Inc., 2012; Berkeley, CA: Cleis Press, 2014.
(276 p.; ISBNs 9781863955768, 9781627780360)

Biography/Travelogue.

Author’s experiences and observations on gay life in East, Southeast, and South Asia through his travels. Chapters on Indonesia, Thailand, China, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, and India.

Author is Australian and the openly gay son of immigrant parents from Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Global Queer Plays: Seven LGBTQ+ Works from around the World.

London: Osborne Books, 2018.
(391 p.; ISBN 9781786825070)

Anthology of drama (in English).

“...bringing together stories of queer life from international playwrights” (scribd.com).

Seven plays, of which the following three are from the Asian region:

“Contempt,” by Danish Sheikh (India);

“No Matter Where I Go,” by Amahl Khouri (Jordan); and

“Taste of Love,” by Zhan Jie (Taiwan).

Note that the three Asian plays are also listed under their specific geographical headings.

Intimate Strangers: True Stories from Queer Asia. Edited by Carmen Ho and

Gregg Schroeder.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2019.

(238 p.; ISBN 9789887794943)

Anthology/Biography.

“...fifteen writers from eastern Asia and beyond....[W]ork of writers living life on their own authentic terms....[Stories of] devoted daughters; boys coming of age; a transgender woman; and gay, queer, and bi parents....” (ref.: Google Books).

The Making of a Gay Asian Community: An Oral History of Pre-AIDS Los Angeles.

By Eric C. Wat.

Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.

(217 p.)

Biographical/interview material.

Community development “through socializing in bars and in organizations like Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays (A/PLG) is studied through the oral histories of individual gay Asian Americans” (ref.: Walker).

Q & A: Queer in Asian America. Edited by David L. Eng and Alice Y. Hom.

Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998.

(445 p.; ISBN 9781566396394, etc.)

Anthology of fiction and non-fiction.

“What does it mean to be queer and Asian-American at the turn of the century? This title considers how Asian-American racial identity and queer sexuality interconnect in mutually shaping and complicating ways. It gathers an array of voices and experiences....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

A collection of essays, personal testimonies, fiction, and art.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Anthology/Nonfiction.

Queer PAPI Porn: Gay Asian Erotica. Edited by Joël Tan.

San Francisco: Cleis Press, 1998.

(207 p.; ISBN 9781573440387)

Anthology of short stories.

Lambda Literary Awards nominee for Fiction Anthology.

Restored Selves: Autobiographies of Queer Asian/Pacific-American Activists.

Edited by Kevin K. Kumashiro.

New York: Harrington Park Press, 2004.

(137 p.; ISBN 9781560234623, etc.)

Anthology of autobiographies.

“...the first person accounts of 20 activists – life stories that work against common stereotypes...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

See also OCLC records for Table of Contents of the anthology.

Rice: Explorations into Gay Asian Culture + Politics. Edited by Song Cho.

Toronto: Queer Press, 1998.

(90 p.; ISBN 9781895564051)

Various genres.

Canadian and American literature; interviews.

Sanctuary: Short Fiction from Queer Asia. Edited by Libay Linsangan Cantor and

Yi-sheng Ng.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2019.

(288 p.; ISBN 9789887794875)

Anthology of short stories.

“...nineteen tales of queer lives in Asia....Meet an altar boy in Davao City, a madrasah schoolgirl in Karachi, a former child soldier in Siem Reap. Discover their passions in the saunas of Singapore, the hotel rooms of Taipei, the university dorms of Manila....” (ref.: Google Books).

Take Out: Queer Writing from Asian Pacific America. Edited by Quang Bao and

Hanya Yanagihara.

New York: Asian American Writers’ Workshop, 2000.

(507 p.; ISBN 9781889876115)

Anthology of various genres.

“...probes a variety of topics – intergenerational relationships, domesticity, pop culture, camp, Hollywood, fairy tales, and Asia” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Anthologies/Fiction.

The Very Inside: An Anthology of Writing by Asian and Pacific Islander Lesbian and Bisexual Women. Edited by Sharon Lim-Hing.

Toronto: Sister Vision Press, 1994.

(467 p.; ISBN 9780920813973)

Anthology of various genres.

Asian-Canadian and Asian-American lesbian/bisexual writings in various genres.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Anthologies/Fiction.

JAPAN

Introduction

The **list** in this section comprises primarily modern works originally written in Japanese for which there are English translations and works written in English by writers of Japanese heritage. (There are also two French translations of originally Japanese works).

A few **classic** older 20th-century titles (including work by Mishima) and the 17th-century story collection Nanshoku Ōkagami [The Great Mirror of Male Love] have also been noted on the list, but read this Introduction for some additional older authors and titles.

Since many LGBT-themed works seem not yet to have been translated from Japanese, it is useful to have anthologies, such as Partings at Dawn and Sparkling Rain [see list below], to provide some overview.

The following historical notes draw substantially, both in paraphrase and in quotation, from Jeffrey Angles and Stephen D. Miller's "Japan, Literature" essay in Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture.

The decades following World War II saw the gradual emergence of (male) gay writers who were bolder in presenting homosexual and homoerotic themes and characters. Among the earlier writers, Yukio Mishima is perhaps the most widely recognized name in the West, two of his works [see list below] having been translated into English quite early on, in the 1960s. Two of his contemporaries, Yasunari Kawabata (Shōnen, ca. 1951) and Sotō Tachibana (Nanshoku monogatari [A Tale of Male Love, 1952]), wrote semi-autobiographical works about same-sex relationships.

(French translations of Shōnen as L'Adolescent: récits autobiographiques and of a 1963 Mishima work, Nikutai no gakkō as L'École de la chair, are listed below. These have not been noted in English translation, but the Mishima has been translated to Chinese [Rou ti xue xiao]).

Other writers who produced relevant work from the late 1950s to the 1970s were Mutsuo Takahashi [see two translations listed below], the poet Keizō Aizawa, and Nobel Prize winner Kenzaburō Ōe. Two of Ōe's works are Shiiku [Prize Stock, 1958] and Seiteki ningen [Homo sexualis, 1963].

(Prize Stock appears in English translation in Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness: Four Short Novels [listed below] and elsewhere, and Homo sexualis has appeared in Dutch in Seventeen & Homo sexualis: novellen [see OCLC WorldCat]).

"Japan's so-called 'gay boom' of the late 1980s and early 1990s" saw the publication of numerous novels, "many of which describe queer life in realistic terms". Among the authors of that period and of a few years later are

Kōji Nishino (Shinjuku Ni-chōme de kimi ni attara [If I Met You in Shinjuku

Ni-chome, 1993] and Tisshu [Tissue, 1993, also 2015]), who deals with the search for encounters in Tokyo gay bars;
Jirō Fukushima (two novels, Chō no katami [The Butterfly's Keepsake, 1998] and Basutaoru [Bath Towel, 1996]);
Ryōsuke Hashiguchi (Hatachi no binetsu [A Touch of Fever, 1993]) and Hisao Hiruma (Yes Yes Yes, 1989; see Partings at Dawn [list below] for **translated excerpt** of Yes Yes Yes, an award-winning work) -- both authors writing about young Tokyo hustlers;
Chiya Fujino (Natsu no Yakusoku [A Promise for Summer, 2000]), who wrote a prize winning account “about two overweight gay men and their transgendered friend”; and
Noriaki Fushimi (Majo no musuko [The Witch's Son, 2003]), whose story is about “a middle-aged man living with his mother as he struggles to overcome his depressive inertia and find romance in a world of deadly viruses and terrorist attacks”.

Angles and Miller also note several novels derived from films; namely, Takehiro Nakajima's Okoge [Fag Hag, 1992], Kaori Ekuni's Kirakira hikaru [Twinkle Twinkle, 1991], and Ryōsuke Hashiguchi's Shōsetsu hasshu! [Hush!, 2002], all described as treating the single male in a society demanding marriage.

Female-female desire as written by women became prominent more recently than writings about male desire. However, there existed some prominent pre-World War II writers on “sisterhood” and, in the 1970s, Yumiko Kurahashi (Warui natsu, 1970) and Masako Togawa (Kari no jikoku, 1970) are noted. A prominent female writer of the 1980s and '90s is Rieko Matsuura. Her Sebasuchan [Sebastian, 1981 (and later, 2007)] and Nachuraru ūman [Natural Woman, 1987; available in French translation] “explore the complicated dynamics of power in lesbian relationships.” Her 1993 novel Oyayubi P no shugyō jidai [The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P] was published in English in 2009 and is listed below. Note also the Sparkling Rain lesbian anthology, on the list.

Note also that there are a number of 21st-century **Yaoi** (Boys' Love/BL) and **Yuri** (Girls' Love) homoerotic novels that have **not** been added to the list. Many examples of this popular fiction genre that originated in Japan can be retrieved on the internet.

Aoki, Ryka.

Seasonal Velocities: Poems, Stories, and Essays.

Los Angeles, CA: Trans-Genre Press, 2012.

(139 p.; ISBN 9780985110505)

Japanese-American transgender woman writes about herself and others,
about abuse as well as love in transsexual experiences.

Aoki, Ryka.

Why Dust Shall Never Settle upon This Soul.

Toronto: Biyuti Publishing, 2015.

(91 p.; ISBN 9780991900855)

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Poetry.

Beyer, Tamiko.

We Come Elemental.

Farmington, Maine: Alice James Books, 2013.

(81 p.; ISBN 9781938584008)

“In her lovely, complicated poems, Beyer...suggests that queerness isn’t
relegated to gender or love but is part of the ebb and flow of everything”

(Library Journal, noted in Goodreads)

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Poetry.

A Fire Is Burning, It Is in Me: The Life and Writings of Michiyo Fukaya.

Edited by G. L. Shervington.

Norwich, Vermont: New Victoria Publishers, 1996.

(181 p.; ISBN 9780934678780)

Biography and writings of Fukaya, a Japanese-American lesbian who
lived from 1953 to 1987. Her work was important in the lesbian and Asian-
American communities, calling attention to racism in the gay/lesbian
community and heterosexism in the Asian-American community. Fukaya ended
her life by suicide.

The Great Mirror of Male Love.

By Saikaku Ihara; translated and with an introduction by Paul Gordon Schalow.

Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1990 (and later printings).

(371 p.; ISBN 9780804718950)

Story collection.

First published in the 17th century (1687).

Work presents homoerotic relationships between warriors and monks, and
between kabuki theatre actors.

Original Japanese title (transliterated): Nanshoku Ōkagami.

Hasu, Sara Toshiko.

Megume and the Trees.

Nashville, Tennessee: Megami Press, 2010.

(112 p.; ISBN 9780615404462)

Fifteen-year-old Megume wakes to find herself in the woods, where she has strange encounters with others and experiences incidents that feel that they are right out of fairytales and Japanese stories. These, combined with her own vivid dreams, leave her to sort out the difference between her own mind and reality (adapted from book cover).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Debut Fiction.

Kawabata, Yasunari.

L'Adolescent: récits autobiographiques. Translated to **French** from the original Japanese by Suzanne Rosset. Paris: Albin Michel, 1992.

(219 p. ; ISBN 9782253932321)

Originally published in Japanese, ca. 1951, as: Shōnen.

Kobayashi, Tamai.

Exile and the Heart: Lesbian Short Stories.

Toronto: Women's Press, 1998.

(102 p.; ISBN 9780889612297)

Stories of women pursuing love, friendship, and identity in the diaspora.

Set in Japan and North America (ref.: Goodreads summary).

Author was born in Japan in 1965 and grew up in Canada.

Kobayashi, Tamai.

Prairie Ostrich: A Novel.

Fredericton, NB: Goose Lane, 2014.

(200 p.; ISBN 9780864926807)

Imogene "Egg" Murakami, an eight-year-old Japanese-Canadian girl living on a farm in Alberta, is helped through a difficult time by her older sister when her older brother dies in an accident. Kathy, the older sister, is also dealing with a teenage lesbian relationship with a girl in her class.

Author has received the Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBT Emerging Writers.

Matsuura, Rieko [Matsūra, Rieko].

The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P: A Novel. Translated from Japanese by

Michael Emmerich. Tokyo; New York: Kodansha International, 2009.

(447 p.; ISBN 9784770031167)

"A provocative, picaresque spin on a coming-of-age story, the novel tells of a

young Japanese woman who wakes up one afternoon to discover that her big toe has turned into a penis. In learning to adjust..., the heroine is forced to reconsider her body, her sexuality and her life....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).
Originally published in Japanese in 1993.

Mishima, Yukio.

Confessions of a Mask. Translated from Japanese by Meredith Weatherby.
Norfolk, Connecticut: New Directions, 1958.
(255 p.)

The story of Kochen, an adolescent boy tormented by his attraction to men.
Originally published in Japanese as: Kamen no Kokuhaku, 1949.
Older, classic work for which many editions and other-language translations are available.

Mishima, Yukio.

L'École de la chair. Translated to **French** from the original Japanese by Yves-Marie and Brigitte Allieux. Paris: Gallimard, 1993.
(288 p.; ISBN 9782070727049)

Originally published in Japanese in 1963 as: Nikutai no gakkō.
In 1960s Japan, Taeko, one of three jaded widows who meet to talk about their romances, develops an attachment for a young gay bar worker.
NOTE: this has been adapted as a 1998 French film, with same French title.

Mishima, Yukio.

Forbidden Colors. Translated from Japanese by Alfred H. Marks.
New York: Knopf, 1968.

Bitter, aging novelist seeks vengeance on women who have betrayed him.
He finds his perfect instrument, the young man Yuichi, whose beauty makes him attractive to women. But Yuichi is just discovering his attraction to men.
Originally published in Japanese as: Kinjiki, ca. 1951.
Older, classic work for which many editions and other-language translations are available.

Ōe, Kenzaburō.

Prize Stock.
In Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness: [Four Short Novels]. Translated from Japanese by John Nathan.
London: Serpent's Tail, 1989.
(ISBN 9781852421632)

Prize Stock originally published in Japanese in 1958 as: Shiiku.
The novels in the collection are all by Ōe.
NOTE: Prize Stock is also in The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories,

edited by Theodore W. Goossen (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010
[and other dates])

Partings at Dawn: An Anthology of Japanese Gay Literature.

Works translated from Japanese by various translators.

Edited by Stephen D. Miller.

San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1996.

(351 p.; ISBN 9780940567177, etc.)

Includes works from the 12th to 20th centuries.

Includes works of Yukio Mishima and Matsuo Takahashi; excerpts from Hisao Hiruma's novel, Yes Yes Yes; and other pieces.

NOTE: Table of Contents is given in one OCLC WorldCat record.

Ramos, Ricardo.

Searching for the Key: A Novel.

San Jose, CA: Writers Club Press, 2002.

(186 p.; ISBN 9780595228126)

"A Japanese-American wife manipulates her husband into bed with a gay Filipino co-worker" (ref.: Walker).

Revoyr, Nina.

The Necessary Hunger: A Novel.

Brooklyn, NY: Akashic Books, 2019 (originally published 1997).

(368 p.; ISBN 9781617756696)

Coming-of-age story set in Los Angeles in the late 1980s. Shy Japanese-American girl in love with an outgoing African-American fellow high school student makes her way through her last year in an inner city school.

Author was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and Polish father; she grew up in Tokyo and the US.

Revoyr, Nina.

Southland.

New York: Akashic Books, 2003.

(348 p.; ISBN 9781888451412)

"A compelling story of race, love, murder, and history" (book cover).

Set in Los Angeles. Protagonist, a young Japanese-American woman, Jackie Ishida, deals with the death of her grandfather in light of murders that occurred earlier during the 1965 Watts Riots.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Lesbian Fiction.

Revoyr, Nina.

Wingshooters. New York: Akashic Books, 2011.
(250 p.; ISBN 9781936070718)

Novel.

“Michelle LeBeau and her white-Japanese family are forever changed when a black family moves into her all-white town in 1974” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Fiction.

Sparkling Rain and Other Fiction from Japan of Women Who Love Women.

Edited by Barbara Summerhawk and Kimberly Hughes; various translators.
Chicago: New Victoria Publishers, 2008.
(216 p.; ISBN 9781892281265)

Anthology.

See title in some OCLC WorldCat records for Table of Contents.

Sueyoshi, Amy Haruko.

Queer Compulsions: Race, Nation, and Sexuality in the Affairs of Yone Noguchi.
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2012.
(229 p.; 9780824834975)

Young Japanese writer travels to the United States in the 1890s and has a passionate relationship with writer Charles Warren Stoddard. He also has relationships with women, eventually returning to Japan and marrying a woman.

Sumida, Nick.

Snackies.
San Francisco: Youth in Decline, 2014.
(1 volume; ISBN 9780990518617)

The author's comics, including strips on “internet dating as a gay man in New York” (ref.: Google Books)

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBT Graphic Novel.

Tagame, Gengoroh [pen name].

My Brother's Husband, volume 1. Translated from Japanese by Anne Ishii.
New York: Pantheon Books, 2017.
(352 p.; ISBN 9781101871515)

Yaichi's suburban life in Tokyo is interrupted by the arrival of a Canadian hulk named Mike Flanagan, who claims to be the widower of Yaichi's gay twin, Ryoji.... (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Originally published in Japanese as: Otouto no Otto (Tokyo: Futabasha, 2014).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBT Graphic Novel.

Author Tagame, a Japanese manga artist, is known for his hypermasculinity portrayals.

NOTE ALSO:

My Brother's Husband, volume 2. Translated by Anne Ishii.
New York: Pantheon Books, 2018.

Takahashi, Mutsuo.

Poems of a Penisist. Translated from Japanese by Hiraoki Sato.
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012.
(108 p.; ISBN 9780816679720)

Celebration of the male body, reminiscent of Walt Whitman, with homosexual desire treated as sacred. Noted to be one of the most important compilations of homoerotic poetry written in the 20th century (OCLC Worldcat record).
Originally published in English translation by Chicago Review Press, 1975.

Takahashi, Mutsuo.

Sleeping, Sinning, Falling. Translated from Japanese by Hiraoki Sato.
San Francisco: City Lights Publishers, 1992.
(144 p.; ISBN 9780872862685)

Poetry.

Tamaki, Mariko.

Skim.
Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2008.
(141 p.; ISBN 9780888997531)

Graphic novel set in 1993 about teenage Japanese-Canadian girl with romantic feelings for her female teacher at an all-girls Catholic school.
Author is of Japanese-Canadian and Jewish-Canadian descent and was born in Toronto.

Yamazaki, Nao-Cola.

"Cavities and Kindness." Translated from Japanese by Kalau Almony.
In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2014 issue (Queer Issue V)
(online).

Short story.

Kawanishi-san, the trans narrator, breaks up with Ito-san, a boyfriend of four years, the story presented together with relating of some interactions at the dentist's office.
Originally published in Don't Laugh at Other People's Sex, published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha [as noted at end of translated story in the magazine].

SOUTH KOREA

Introduction

The Korean Introduction and the list together note works in English translation, in Korean as original language, and in original English.

The current number of published Korean LGBT works in translation in comparison to the modern and growing body of Korean-language LGBT literature seems to be relatively small. Those who read Korean will want to examine works beyond this list and can search for additional information to confirm summary observations given in the digest below.

For background to modern Korean LGBT literature, with some historical comments, see a lengthy **four-part post** by Charles Montgomery at “Korean Literature in Translation” (www.ktlit.com), December 22, 23, and 28, 2011, and January 6, 2012 [viewed January 22, 2020], in which Montgomery questions Gabriel Sylvian, founder of The Korea Gay Literature Project. The parts are the following:

- Part 1 (Dec. 22, 2011), “Gabriel Sylvian answers some questions on Korean LGBT Literature #1,” with discussion of historical issues;
- Part 2 (Dec. 23, 2011), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Korean GLBT Literature #2” and Part 3 (Dec. 28, 2011), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Yi Kwang-su and Gayness (Korean GLBT Literature #3),” concerning modern (20th-century onwards) gay/lesbian literature and “notable” authors; and
- Part 4 (Jan. 6, 2012), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Korean GLBT Literature #4,” discussing translation of gay/lesbian literature to English and the Korea Gay Literature Project.

Briefly noted from Sylvian’s lengthy discussion are the following points:

Same-sex themes in modern Korean literature begin with Yi Kwang-su [Yi Kwang-su] in the early 20th century, with Gim Hwan writing in the 1920s, and Yi Hyoseok producing a novel (Pollen) in the late 1930s. Sylvian gives several other names. His comments suggest that, in general, same-sex portrayals were infrequent, minor, and not written sympathetically.

The subsequent period from the 1940s through to democratization in 1987 “marks a general moratorium on same-sex themes in Korean literature,” although Sylvian notes a couple of individuals.

After 1987, “Jang Jeong-il came out swinging against sexual repression.” “His debut novel treated the topic of Itaewon gays,” although his “portrayals of gay men are far from positive.” Sylvian continues: “From the mid-1990s a young and energetic LGBT politics emerged on the public scene and same-sex characters began to appear in works by Song Gyeong-a, Yi Na-mi, Seo Yeong-eun,

Yun Dae-nyeong, Baek Min-seok, and a handful of others, each writer with his/her own perspective and, for the most part, not very positive,” although he notes Song and another writer, Yi Nam-hui, as exceptions.

Sylvian points to Bae Su-a and Shin Gyeong-suk as writers on same-sex themes in the 2000s, and characterizes three decades, noting that “[i]f the 80s was the decade for poetry, and the 90s the novel, then the 2000s was the decade for theatre, and increasingly, film.” (Here he singles out one “problematic” play for comment: “‘Fig Blossoms,’ the first major theatrical articulation of the Korean LGBT reality”).

For more recent but briefer comments about the increasing visibility of queer Korean authors, see Anton Hur’s online Words Without Borders Magazine essay, “Korean Literature Is Stepping Out” (June-July 2019 issue), which incorporates links to a few of the authors/works listed below; and Kyung-eon Yang’s “Queer Literature” article (fully cited in the Sources list).

Chee, Alexander.

Edinburgh. New York: Picador USA, 2002.
(212 p.; ISBN 9780312305031, etc.)

Novel.

“As a child, Fee is a gifted Korean-American soprano in a boys’ choir in Maine. Silent after being abused by the director, he is unable to warn the other boys or protect his best friend....Even after the director is imprisoned, Fee continues to believe he is responsible, and while he survives to adulthood, his friends do not....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Chee, Alexander.

How to Write an Autobiographical Novel: Essays.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.
(280 p.; ISBN 9781328764522)

Biography.

“...[explores] how we form our identities in life, in politics, and in art” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Choi, Eunyoung.

“[The Summer].” Translated from Korean by Jamie Chang.
In Korean Literature Today (www.koreanliteraturenow.com), March 25, 2019,
Fiction posting (online) [viewed December 20, 2019].

Short story.

This appears to be an excerpt from a Korean-language short story collection titled (in English translation) Someone Harmless to Me (pp. 25-41; Asia Publishers, 2017). Check reference above for book cover photo in Korean and a note following the story translation.

“If you’d like to see how lesbians form their identities and relationships with others and under what social constraints...[this story] is for you”;

“With delicate prose, this story shows how eighteen-year-old Yi-gyeong and Suyi fall in love and, after moving to Seoul, how each of them goes through a change of heart under their altered social and class status....” (ref.: Yang).

Choi, Franny.

Soft Science.

Farmington, Maine: Alice James Books, 2019.

(95 p.; ISBN 9781938584992)

Poetry.

“explores queer Asian American femininity” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author identified as Korean-American queer writer (Wikipedia).

Choi, Jin-young.

[To the Warm Horizon]. Seoul: Minumsa Publishing Group, 2017.

(208 p.)

In Korean.

Novel.

English-language title entered above is a **translation of the Korean title**.

Apocalyptic work; “Dori, fleeing a pandemic that’s wiped out the country, meets the nonchalant Jina and finds herself desiring more than mere survival”

(from Introduction to Words Without Borders Magazine excerpt, noted below)

English-language translation of excerpts in Words Without Borders Magazine and in Korean Literature Now. SEE details in following paragraph.

Korean transliteration was not determined for title.

For **Korean-script title**, see Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018, (online), entered following the English translation of a portion of this novel, under title “Dori and Jina”, or alternatively see Korean Literature Now, March 25, 2019 (online), which carries an English language translation of an “excerpt from pp. 54-65” of the novel.

NOTE: Interview of Choi by So J. Lee (“In One Long Breath,” Words Without Borders, WWB Daily, published June 29, 2018), in which Choi notes writing the story “in one long breath” because, though she had written about lesbians in other works, she had “never presented it up front, made it the whole story.” She mentions the character Suseon, from her earlier novel The Never-ending Song [Korean-script title given in the interview], who was a lesbian of her mother’s generation, adding that “[o]ur generation of queers experience

much oppression and discrimination, so you can only imagine how it was for the generation before us.”

Jeon, Sam-hye.

“Genesis.” Translated from Korean by Anton Hur.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2016 issue (Queer Issue VII) (online).

In English and Korean (bilingual posting).

Short story.

“...smitten space trainee moons over her superstar roommate” (Queer Issue VII, Introduction).

Kim, Bi.

“Tree of Lips.” Translated from Korean by Sora Kim-Russell and Eunjung Kwon-Lee.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2012 issue (Queer Issue III) (online).

In English and Korean (bilingually posted).

Short story.

Narrator, Ran, is the preteen daughter of a transvestite “crazy dad,” whose wife has left. Uncomfortable with his behavior, Ran tries to understand why he dresses up, comes slowly to a better understanding, and contemplates revenge on the bigoted current partner of her step-mother.

Kim, Bong-gon.

“College Folk.” Translated from Korean by Kyoung-lee Park.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 issue (Queer Issue X) (online), in “New Korean Queer Writing” feature section.

Excerpt from the author’s Speed, Summer! (as noted in the magazine issue, in Anton Hur essay titled “Korean Literature Is Stepping Out”).

Korean student in Kyoto saves his professor from scandal, then finds himself on the verge of creating a second one.

NOTE ALSO the author’s **Korean**-language novella, titled (in English) “Auto,” which “...reads like a diary whose author, a gay man, secretly tells readers his love story....” (ref.: Yang).

Kim, Hye-jin.

Ttal e taehayō [About My Daughter].

Sōul-si [Seoul]: Minŭmsa, 2017.

(214 p.; ISBN 9788937473173, 9788937473005)

In Korean.

Novel.

Excerpt translated to English by Anton Hur in: Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 issue (Queer Issue X) (online), in “New Korean Queer Writing” Feature section.

The narrator “finds herself living with her lesbian daughter and her [daughter’s] partner who cannot find an affordable place of their own”; the novel portrays the mother’s “struggle to understand her daughter’s generation as her daughter fights for her colleagues who were fired from a university on account of their sexual identity....” (ref.: Yang).

For Korean-script author/title information, see OCLC WorldCat record.

Translation to Chinese as: Guan yu nü er (published in Taiwan, 2019; see Chinese-script details in OCLC WorldCat record)

Kim, Hyun.

[Glory Hole] and [When Opening Lips].

In Korean.

Poetry.

These are the English-language titles of the poet’s first and second poetry collections, where, in his experiments with format, he “continues to challenge the acceptance of a societal order that the majority has agreed upon, excluding those that do not fit in”; his poems “convey the most ardent queer sensibilities among contemporary Korean poems” (ref.: Yang).

Kim, Willyce.

Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid.

Boston: Alyson Publications, 1985.

(133 p.; ISBN 9780932870599)

Novel.

“Dancer Dawkins views life best from behind a pile of hotcakes. But her lover, Jessica Riggins, has fallen into the clutches of Fatin Satin Aspen.... Meanwhile,...the California Kid...heads west. When this crew collides in San Francisco...[j]ust about anything [can happen]” (book cover)

SEE ALSO author’s Dead Heat (Boston: Alyson Publications, 1988), which has a cast of lesbian characters who debuted in Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid.

Author born in Honolulu to second-generation Korean parents.

Kim, Willyce.

Eating Artichokes.

Oakland, CA: Woman’s Press Collective, 1972.

(22 p.)

Poetry.

Kim is “recognized as the first Asian lesbian to have her work published in the United States....Kim published three books of poetry, Curtains of Light

[Oakland, CA: W. Kim,] (1970), Eating Artichokes (1972) and Under the Rolling Sky [Maude Gonne Press,] (1976), that depicted love and friendship... [and] were frank in their description of sex and passion between women....” (encyclopedia.com entry for Kim [viewed Dec. 2019]).

These much older works are included because of what seem to be the poet’s groundbreaking work regarding Asian-American lgbt publication.

Lee, Hyemi.

“The Cupboard with Strawberry Jam.” Translated from Korean by So J. Lee. In Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 issue (Queer Issue X) (online), in “New Korean Queer Writing” Feature section.

Prose poem.

Excerpt from the author’s poetry collection Unexpected Vanilla (Moonji Publications, 2016), as noted following the translated story. So J. Lee’s additional translations from Unexpected Vanilla have appeared in, e.g., Modern Poetry in Translation, Korean Literature Now, and Asymptote.

Lee, Jong San.

“Customer.” Translated from Korean by Victoria Caudle. In Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 issue (Queer Issue X) (online), in “New Korean Queer Writing” feature section.

Novel excerpt.

From the author’s book (as noted in the magazine issue, in the Anton Hur essay titled “Korean Literature Is Stepping Out”).

“A student meets her first androgyne and makes a startling discovery in this chapter from the futuristic novel” (Introductory note to translation)

Pak, Sang-yŏng [Park, Sang Young].

Allyŏjiji anŭn yesulga ŭi nunmul kwa Chait’un pasŭt’a [The Tears of an Unknown Artist, or Zaytun Pasta].

Kyŏnggi-do Pa’ju-si: Munhak Tongne, 2018.

(349 p.; ISBN 9788954652865)

In Korean.

Short stories.

“...gay men’s lives are depicted more nakedly [than in other works]. Through the stories of the first-person narrator who tried and failed to make the best gay film and Wang Sha whose art hasn’t achieved anything, the novella portrays the desires and wretched lives of those ousted from the mainstream....” (ref.: Yang). See OCLC WorldCat record for Korean-script author/title information

CHINA

Introduction

Note 1: Approximately **thirty percent of the entries** in the Chinese list are for works **in Chinese** for which no translation is noted.

If an entry is under Chinese title with no note regarding translation, do **not** assume that the work has not been translated, but inquire further. (This comment applies also to works published originally in either traditional or simplified Chinese script, for which an alternative script edition may be available).

For **works in translation**, entry is normally under translated title (English, usually). Original title (in transliteration) is noted when possible.

Note also authors/titles mentioned in the Introduction, but not repeated on the list.

Note 2: The Chinese list emphasizes works from the 21st century or the very late 20th century (roughly the last twenty-five years). More recent imprint years of works from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the diaspora are better represented than those same years from the PRC. Additional listing work may be needed here. Rachel Leng's work on PRC internet literature is instructive (see Sources).

Note 3: Authors of Chinese heritage whose country or region was uncertain were placed at this heading. SEE some additional authors placed elsewhere, and particularly see the SINGAPORE and MALAYSIA lists.

Note 4: The placement of works emanating from Taiwan, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, and from the diaspora, in a single section, CHINA, is a **cultural** placement only, recognizing shared language and a significant sharing of traditions. A few comments about the differing developments of LGBT literature in Taiwan and in the People's Republic of China (Mainland China) are noted later in this Introduction.

Note 5: For additional works with **LGBT Hong Kong** connections, see the bilingual (Chinese and English) bibliography, [Towards Full Citizenship](#) (full reference in Sources, at end of this list). Only a few of the many entries from the Literature and Biography sections in [Towards Full Citizenship](#) have been duplicated here. Additional authors of note on the list include Timothy Mo and Tony Chun-ling Lo (in English) and Edward Yik-wah Lam [Lin, Yihua], Maike, Jizhejia [Henry Lam] and You, Jing [Yau, Ching] (in Chinese). Note also Hong Kong-born **Kitty Tsui**, who published works in the US in the 1980s and '90s, including [Breathless: Erotica](#) (Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1996), and is claimed to be "the first recorded Chinese American lesbian to be a published author" (Wikipedia: Kitty Tsui [viewed March 09, 2020]).

Note 6: Overview essays are presented in Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture by Cui Zi'en and Ying Zhu (at the heading "China, 'Tongzhi' Literature") and by Fran Martin (at "Taiwan, Literature"). There is a broader entry, by Stephen D. Miller at "Asia, Literature". Some introductory comments and quotations for this section are based on notes from those three essays. (The encyclopedia was issued a decade ago, in 2006 and again in 2011). There is also a section in the 2003 Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature.

Several additional comments and quotations are based on the Ta-wei Chi [Dawei Ji]-curated webpage essay posted in the Taiwan Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Culture Toolkit, LGBT Literature webpage (see Sources).

Rachel Leng's 2013 paper (see Sources, and Note 2) is helpful on PRC issues.

Two more recent scholarly works with respect to **Taiwanese** lgbt/tongzhi literature, the first in Chinese and the other in English, are:

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei]. Tong zhi wen xue shi: Taiwan de fa ming.

[A Queer Invention in Taiwan: A History of Tongzhi Literature] (Taibei Shi: Lian jing chu ban, 2017); and

Chiang, Howard and Wang, Yin, eds. Perverse Taiwan. (Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2017).

Ji looks at six decades of Taiwan queer literature, presenting themes and insights on different eras; Chiang and Wang is an interdisciplinary collection of essays on gay Taiwanese culture, of interest also to those studying literature.

Chinese culture region of Northeast Asia

The areas of Chinese culture and writing of northeastern Asia record centuries-old historical references concerning homosexuality, as do the Indian and Japanese civilizations. References in Chinese literature of the **dynastic periods** have been often discussed and debated. (A frequently quoted work by a Western observer is Bret Hinsch's Passions of the Cut Sleeve; see Sources). Two notable points of discussion are that historical literary works were products of elite social strata and that there is the linguistic issue of lack of distinction between the pronouns for 'she' and 'he' in written and spoken Chinese.

A frequently referenced traditional Chinese literary term for homosexuality is *Duan xiu zhi pi* [Passion of the Cut Sleeve], an allusion which concerns the story of the relationship of the Han emperor Ai with his lover Dong Xian (a later "Cut Sleeve" story version is "Huang Jiulang," by the Qing dynasty (17th century) author, Pu Songling). Also well known as a traditional term for homosexuality, *Fen tao* [The Bitten Peach] refers to a Zhao dynasty story of the beautiful Mizi Xia, the favored one of Duke Ling. Dynastic literature over the centuries carries references using these terms.

Mainland writings of the **Republican period (1912-1949)** include, for example, works from the 1920s of Yu Dafu, Guo Moruo, Huang Shenzhi and Ye Dingluo . Additional

discussion of this period can be had in Wenqing Kang's Obsession: Male Same-sex Relations in China, 1900-1950 (see Sources). Kang notes: "my research found that love in the May Fourth spirit was not limited to love between men and women; it also included love between men." Some "positive representation of love between men in May Fourth literature signals a new kind of interpretation of male same-sex relations in modern China....In China, until very recently the association of decadence with May Fourth literature has remained a taboo in modern literary historiography" (ref.: Kang, p. 12; see also ch. 3 for detailed discussion of Yu, Guo, Huang, and Ye).

Post-1949 development of LGBT/tongzhi literature in the Chinese culture region of northeast Asia has taken place in somewhat different ways and rates in different places, with Taiwan appearing to take the lead in writing and publishing.

Taiwan

Professor Ta-wei Chi [Dawei Ji], a curator on the Taiwan Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Culture Toolkit (toolkit.culture.tw) website (LGBT Literature webpage) suggests that the "quality and quantity of Taiwan's LGBT literature is extraordinary when compared with that of other Asian countries, or even the rest of the world." "Other Chinese-speaking societies, such as China and Hong Kong," his essay continues, "are limited by various taboos, and thus incapable of producing a similarly rich body of LGBT writing...." It's further suggested that "[p]aradoxically, LGBT literature has blossomed in Taiwan because society was once so repressed." (Martial law was lifted in Taiwan in 1987). [webpage viewed January 14, 2020; check for additional background information].

The first modern Chinese novel to explicitly address male homosexuality was Nie zi [Crystal Boys] by Bai Xianyong [Pai Hsien-yung], set in a socially repressive Taiwan of the 1970s and published in Taipei in 1983. This classic of early modern lgbt literature has been translated into English and other languages, including Japanese and Vietnamese [see at Bai, on the list below]. Bai's work was followed a few years later by the Chen Ruoxi [Chen Jo-hsi] novel, Zhi hun [Paper Marriage], for which see also the list below. Other early Taiwanese authors who began writing in the 1960s and 1970s and who are overlooked, according to Chi, are Jiang Gui, Guo Lianghui, and Bai's classmate, Ouyang Zi.

Fran Martin points out that "[t]he 1990s marked a watershed in Taiwanese glbt writing. The appearance of a distinct tongzhi fiction paralleled the rise of tongzhi activism following the lifting of martial law in 1987." She notes the publication of two works by already well-established authors: Huangren shouji [Notes of a Desolate Man] in 1994 by Zhu Tianwen [Chu T'ien-wen], listed separately below at Zhu, and a story by her sister, Chu T'ien-hsin, "Chunfeng hudie zhi shi" [A Story of Spring Butterflies], which appears in Martin's anthology, Angelwings, noted below (as does another Chu T'ien-wen piece).

Martin further calls attention to (and these are included on the following list):

Ling Yan's Shi sheng hua mei [The Silent Thrush] (1990);

Du Xiulan's Ni nü [Rebel Daughter] (1996); and

Tsao Li-chuan's [Cao Lijuan's] "Tongnü zhi wu" [The Maidens' Dance] and

“Guanyu tade baifa ji qita” [Regarding Her White Hair and Other Matters].

Hsu Yoshen [Hsu Yousheng / Xu Yousheng], a writer of “popular gay-themed fiction” is represented also, in Angelwings (below), with “Stones on the Shore,” which focuses on a young Taiwanese man’s experiences in New York City and his falling in love with a dancer from China.

Qiu Miaojin, “Taiwan’s best-known lesbian author,” who took her own life in 1995 at the age of 26, is represented below at Qiu and also in Angelwings. Martin notes that her writing “is exemplary of a distinct subcategory of 1990s tongzhi fiction referred to as ‘queer literature’ (ku’er wenxue),” a category which includes writings of Chi Ta-wei [Ji Dawei], Hong Ling, and Chen Xue (all of whom are represented in Angelwings, with Ji also noted in separate listings).

Chi Ta-wei has observed that “the 1990s is regarded as the golden age of LGBT literature in Taiwan,” and adds to the names already noted above those of Lin Junying, Wu Jiwen, and Ji Dawei [i.e., himself, Chi Ta-wei], who write about gay men.

Although, according to Chi, the rise in popularity of the Internet was accompanied by a loss of literature’s “favored status,” he suggests also that “the passing of the LGBT literature fad was the normal result of the public’s view of homosexuality as nothing out of the ordinary.” Nevertheless, “[i]n the second decade of the twenty-first century established... [fiction writers] such as Guo Qiangsheng, Xu Yousheng, essayist Wang Shenghong, newcomers Luo Yujia, Lin Youxuan and others, as well as a group of new writers cultivated by the LGBT publishing company Gbooks, all continue to write on LGBT topics, proof that there is still a future for LGBT literature in Taiwan.” [Compiler note: some works, older or newer, by Guo, Lin, and Xu [Hsu, in Angelwings] are noted on the list; but user might check for later works of theirs and works of other writers].

People’s Republic of China (Mainland China)

A relative burst of tongzhi/LGBT-related writing appears beginning in the mid-1990s. The Routledge essays of Cui and Miller, cited above, make various observations and present some works of this period, with Miller noting that “[s]ince 1995 several novels, stories and collections [have been] published that touch on same-sex love and desire.” Among the examples given are:

Chen Ran’s Pokai [Breaking Open] (1995), which “led the way for the publication of more explicit lesbian works” [such as those of Ge Zhi and Zhang Haoyin, noted below]; Breaking Open “grapples with the question of constructing a social space for female companionship in an urban environment” [see list at Red Is Not the Only Color for Chen’s Breaking Open in English translation];

Su Tong’s Shuiwa [transliterated in library catalogues as: Sui wa; English title: Broken Tile] (1997), which was “the first novel to explore same-sex desire,” although it “[dealt] with homosexuality only tangentially.”

“It opened the way for more explicit novels,” including Cui Zi’en’s Taoshe zhuichun [also: Tao se zui chun; The Peach-colored Lips] (1997), listed below with additional details and noted as having been rejected by more than twenty Mainland publishers before being published in Hong Kong to both popular and critical acclaim; and Tong Ge’s Haonan Gelu [also: Hao nan Luo Ge (see this form on list below); Good Man Gelu] (1997), published in Hong Kong and reported to be popular in the Hong Kong gay community.

Ta ta ta ta de gu shi: Zhong Gang Tai zuo zhe duan pian xiao shuo ji [His-his Her-her Love Stories / Same-sex Love Stories] (published in Hong Kong, 1996; 2nd ed., 1997) brought some PRC writers out of the closet.

Cui notes that the “first PRC-published tongzhi novels covering sexual and gender ‘transgression’ in all variations” were:

Cui Zi’en’s two works, Choujiao dengchang [Enter the Clowns] (1998), which “contemplates the relationship between gender and sexuality”; and Meigui chuangta [The Rose Bed] (1998), both included in the list below.

The two works noted above (at the Chen Ran entry) from Cui’s essay are:

Ge Zhi’s Miqing de rizhi [The Loving Days] (1999), a debut novel in which “the subject of sex between women received sustained exploration” and Zhang Haoyin’s Shanghai wangshi [The Bygone Days of Shanghai] (2003), which explores “intimate relationships between women” and appeared initially as an online serial novel.

(Compiler note: the Ge Zhi citation information is **as given** by Cui, but the work has not been found elsewhere based on those data. It has, then, not been entered on the list. Further clarification is required).

Various commentators have chosen to name different novels as the “first” from Mainland China. Several works appeared in a short period in the second half of the 1990s. One additional one not mentioned above, but on the list, is the work noted at Beitong, below, under one of its English language translation titles, Beijing Comrades.

The importance of the internet to the production and dissemination of *tongzhi* writing in Mainland China is great. To complement the print list assembled here, it is helpful to examine a 2013 work of Rachel Leng (see Sources), which provides a wealth of information regarding “comrade literature” (*tongzhi wenxue*) that “has emerged on the internet in Mainland China.” Leng notes that, although such literature appeared in the 1980s in Taiwan and Hong Kong, “it was only after the mid-1990s with the advent of the internet” that gay-themed fiction was “disseminated online in Mainland China. There are now hundreds and thousands of stories designated as ‘Comrade Novels’ (... *tongzhi xiaoshuo*) archived on various Chinese websites” (p. i). “A quick search of ‘*tongzhi wenxue*’ on Baidu.com will reveal that it is not unusual for popular *tongzhi* websites to have millions of subscribers. Members of *tongzhi* websites participate in the virtual

community by reading, sharing, and writing Comrade fiction on designated webpages” (pp. 2-3). In Leng’s work, “online literature” refers to “works of fiction published on the internet by both amateur and professional writers. These stories are more akin to works of conventional literature published in a new media format rather than works of electronic art” (pp. 4-5).

Hong Kong

Literary works, both pre- and post-1997 Handover, are noted **selectively** in the following list. **Read Note 5** above for additional information **and** see Sources list for the Hong Kong bibliography, Towards Full Citizenship (online and in print), which includes a substantial Literature section. In addition to Hong Kong publication of local authors, there have been occasions when books rejected for publication on the mainland have been published in Hong Kong. See, for example, notes at Cui and at Tong, above in the PRC section of this Introduction. Occasionally as well, Hong Kong authors have chosen to publish in Taiwan. Such author/imprint distinctions have not, in general, been of concern here.

Macau

The compiler has not discovered relevant works, in Chinese, Portuguese, or other languages, written or published in Macau, either pre- or post-1999 Handover, and stands ready to be corrected.

Overseas

Works of individuals of Chinese heritage appearing in the China section of the list have been published primarily in Canada and the United States, in English.

Angelwings: Contemporary Queer Fiction from Taiwan. Translated and edited by Fran Martin.
Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2003.
(247 p.; ISBN 9780824826529, etc.)

Anthology.

Table of Contents, as given in the catalogue of the University of Hong Kong Library:

Bodhisattva Incarnate / Chu T'ien-Wen;
Platonic Hair / Qiu Miaojin;
A Story of Spring Butterflies / Chu T'ien-Hsin;
Stones on the Shore / Hsu Yoshen;
The Boy in the Pink Orchid Tree / Lin Yuyi;
Who Is Singing? / Lin Chun Ying;
Searching for the Lost Wings of the Angel / Chen Xue;
Poems from the Glass Womb / Hong Ling;
A Stranger's ID / Chi Tawei; and
Rose Is the Past Tense of Rise / Wu Jiwen.
List of **Chinese titles**, p. 247

Bai, Xianyong [Pai, Hsien-yung].

Crystal Boys: A Novel. Translated from Chinese by Howard Goldblatt.
San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1990 (and later printings).
(330 p.; ISBN 9780940567115)

Novel.

A-queing, the adolescent hero from a poor family, is thrown out by his father when it is learned he is gay. He goes to New Park, a gay hangout in Taipei, and establishes himself as a hustler. There he meets three other boys living on the street; they become fast friends and are all taken under the wing of Chief Yang, a fiftyish gay man...."

This is said to be the **first modern gay novel written in Chinese**.

Translation of: Nie zi [Nieh tzu], **first published in Chinese in 1983**.

Translations available in many languages, including Japanese, Vietnamese, and various European languages.

Author is Taiwanese.

Beitong [pseudonym].

Beijing Comrades. Translated from Chinese by Scott E. Myers.
New York: The Feminist Press, at City University of New York, 2016.
(383 p.; ISBN 9781558619074)

Novel.

Handong, a ruthless and wealthy businessman, is introduced to Lan Yu, a naïve working-class architectural student. The attraction is all-consuming. Handong is unsettled by this desire, while Lan Yu quietly submits.... (from OCLC

WorldCat record Summary).

Published anonymously in 1998 on a gay website and said to be the **first gay novel from mainland China** (but note other mainland titles of the 1990s in the Introduction to this section).

Published under title: Lan Yu (Taipei: Taiwan dong bangu fen, 2002).

Translator's note in Myers's 2016 English translation describes significant differences in presentation of sexual content among the various editions, also noting that the work is known to English readers under various titles, including: Beijing Story, Someone Likes Lan, or Beijing gushi.

Author also known variously as: Bei Tong, Beijing Tongzhi, Beijing Comrade, Xiao He, Miss Wang and Linghui.

Further translation to French, from the English translation, under title: Camarades de Pékin (Paris: Calmann-Lévy, 2018).

Cao, Lijuan.

"Dance of a Maiden." Translation from Chinese.

In The Taipei Chinese Pen. (Taipei: Taipei Chinese Center, International P.E.N., 2002).

(ISSN: 2077-0448)

Short story (1991).

"The story's main characters are the tall and robust Zhong Yuan and the petite and clever Tong Suxin, two girls who met in high school and began an ambiguous female-female relationship that continued until both were of marriageable age. The work has had a strong generation-spanning influence on Taiwan's lesbian community...." (ref.: annotation by Huang Yujie, Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit website, LGBT Literature webpage [see Sources, at Taiwan])

Chinese title in transliteration: Tong nǚ zhi wu.

NOTE: Huang Yujie's annotation also mentions Cao Lijuan's **collection**, Tong nǚ zhi wu [Dance of a Maiden], which carries a 1996 story, "About Her Gray Hair and Other Matters," which "revisits the question raised in the title story as an aging lesbian gradually realizes that sex and love are equally important".

Cao, Mu.

In the Face of Death We Are Equal. Translated from Chinese by Scott E. Myers. London: Seagull Books; Chicago, IL: Distributed by University of Chicago Press, 2019.

(380 p.; ISBN 9780857426987)

Novel.

"...realistic portrait of working-class gay men in...Chinese society. He Donghai is days away from his sixtieth birthday and long-awaited retirement from his job as a corpse burner at a Beijing crematorium.... [H]e reflects on his life and his relationship with a special group of young men who live and love on the margins

of Chinese society....” (ref.: University of Chicago Press website).
Original 2003 novel in Chinese published as: Qi'er ([S.I.]: Xian dai wen hua chu ban she, 2011; ISBN 9789881559760).

A Myers **translation excerpt** was published in Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2016 (The Queer Issue VII) (online) under title “Outcast”.
Biographical information on Mu Cao which follows the online translation excerpt in Words Without Borders Magazine notes:

Mu Cao “was born into a farming family in Xihua County, Henan province, China in 1974. He has no diplomas, is not a member of the Chinese Writers Association, and publishes almost entirely outside of official channels....His avant-garde novels, poetry collections, and short story collections include Outcast, The Transsexual Age, A Treasured Book of Sunflowers, Selected Poems of Mu Cao, and Scream of a Hundred Lan Yus. He lives in Beijing and the Jiangsu province”.

CelebrAsian: Shared Lives: An Oral History of Gay Asians.

Toronto: Gay Asians Toronto, 1996.
(158 p.; ISBN 9780968730706)

Carries **biographies** (six to twelve pages each) of thirteen men of Asian heritage (mainly, but not exclusively, of Chinese heritage, judging from surnames)

Chan, Jeffery Paul

Eat Everything before You Die: A Chinaman in the Counterculture.
Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2004.
(297 p.; ISBN 9780295984360)

Novel.

Two Chinese-American brothers’ conflicts between immigrant and counterculture values. One brother is a gay TV chef.

Author is an American-born professor, retired from San Francisco State University.

Chang, Kristin.

Past Lives, Future Bodies.
New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2018.
(53 p.; ISBN 9781625578716)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Lesbian Poetry.

Author lives in New York.

Chen Chen.

When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities.
Rochester, NY: BOA Editions, 2017.

(96 p.; ISBN 9781942683339)

Poetry.

The poet “investigates inherited forms of love and family – the strained relationship between a mother and son, the cost of necessary goodbyes – all from Asian American, immigrant, and queer perspectives....”

(OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author is a Chinese-American who was born in Xiamen, China, and grew up in Massachusetts.

Chen, Ching-In.

Recombinant. Berkeley, CA: Kelsey Street Press, 2017.

(96 p.; ISBN 9780932716866)

Hybrid collection of **prose and poetry**, set in a speculative future.

“Urges the reader to investigate female and genderqueer lineages in the context of labor smuggling and trafficking....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Transgender Poetry.

Author is a US-born poet of Chinese heritage.

Chen, Kehua.

“Sodomy’s Necessity.” Translated from Chinese by Simon Patton.

In Frontier Taiwan: An Anthology of Modern Chinese Poetry, p. 449.

Edited by Michelle Yeh and N.G.D. Malmqvist. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.

Poem.

“Of Chen’s poems dealing with gay sexuality, ‘Sodomy’s Necessity’ is the best known – and the most notorious....” (ref.: Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit website (toolkit.culture.tw) > Literature > Themes > LGBT Literature: page for Sodomy’s Necessity. This page carries **the translated poem, comments, and bibliographic information for both original Chinese and translated English versions.**)

Transliterated Chinese title of poem: Gang jiao zhi bi yao.

Chen, Ruoxi [Chen, Jo-hsi].

Zhi hun [Paper Marriage].

Taipei Shi [Taiwan]: Zi li wan bao, 1986.

(373 p.)

Additional imprints: Xianggang [Hong Kong]: San lian shu dian, 1987;

Beijing: Zhongguo wen lian chu ban, 1987. There are others.

In **Chinese**.

Novel in the form of a diary; a heterosexual Chinese woman emigrates to the United States and marries a gay man in a marriage of convenience. Set in California.

See OCLC WorldCat for details of various imprints.

Scott E. Myers [www.scottemyers.net ,viewed Dec. 2019] notes his current project to be a translation to English of this novel.

Author is Taiwanese, born in 1938.

Chen, Xue.

E nǚ shu: xīn gān guān xiǎo shuō [Book of Evil Women].

Taipei Shi: Ping shi, 1995.

(255 p; ISBN 9789578030565)

In Chinese.

Short story collection.

This is noted as Chen's first publication. "The book's provocative title and the author's frank treatment of lesbian sexuality were the source of much controversy. Chen's literary predecessors – Li Ang, Ling Yan, and Cao Lijuan and others – touched on lesbianism, but none were as bold as Chen in depicting women engaging in sexual acts and achieving sexual climax together.... 'Searching for the Lost Wings of the Angels'...[is the book's] most celebrated story...."(Ta-wei Chu, synopsis of "Searching for the Lost Wings..." in LGBT Literature section of Taiwan Ministry of Culture's Taiwan Culture Toolkit website [see Sources, at Taiwan]).

NOTE 1: "Searching for the Lost Wings of the Angels," one of the stories in the collection, is also in the English-language collection Angelwings, above in this section. (Story title word is Angel, in the singular, in Angelwings catalog records).

NOTE 2: Chen Xue is prolific, having written at least ten novels and short story collections.

Chen, Xue.

Hu die [Butterfly].

Taipei Xian Zhonghe Shi: INK yin ke chu ban, 2005.

(186 p.; ISBN 9789867420428)

In Chinese.

Short stories.

Also published in Beijing, 2014, in simplified Chinese characters.

Chen, Xue.

Mi gong zhong de lian ren [Lovers in the Maze].

Xinbei Shi Zhonghe Qu: Yin ke wen xue, 2012.

(510 p.; ISBN 9789866135774)

In Chinese.

Autobiographical novel.

Struggles of a woman with herself, her betrayal of her same-sex lover and indulgence in pleasure, followed by a serious disease. Describes forms of love,

struggles in love situations, but also more broadly an exploration life, death, society, and human nature.

Later printing in simplified Chinese script (e.g., Guilin Shi, 2015).

Chen, Xue.

“Venus.” In The Guardian (UK newspaper online), posted 15 December 2015 (article title: “Translation Tuesday: Venus by Chen Xue”).

Short story.

“A transgender woman and man consider their bodies one quiet, warm night, in this short story exploring physicality and beauty” (article lead).

Story translated from Chinese by Josh Stenberg.

Chin, Alan.

The Lonely War.

Austin, TX: Zumaya Boundless, 2009.

(303 p.; ISBN 9781934841440)

Novel.

Protagonist is a gay Chinese-American of mixed heritage, who lived among monks when young and is a pacifist on a warship in the Pacific during World War Two.

Chinese translation (traditional script) also available, with title:

Gu du de zhan zheng (Xinbei: Zhi yin ren wen hua, 2012).

Chung, C. K. Hugo.

Self Writeous.

[S.l.]: Independently published, 2018.

(208 p.; ISBN 9781719822060)

Various genres.

“This **literary collection** presents a writer’s journey from his born motherland, Taiwan, to his reborn motherland, New York City, with many places in between....[K]aleidoscopic observations about family, history, literature, politics, and sexuality” (ref.: amazon.com, Books). One reader has noted that the book “is about identity: the complex journeys of both being gay and being Taiwanese.”

Collett, Nigel.

Firelight of a Different Colour: The Life and Times of Leslie Cheung Kwok-wing. Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2014.

(464 p.; ISBN 9789881554260)

Biography of the openly gay and widely loved Hong Kong entertainer who committed suicide in 2003.

Cui, Zi'en.

Chou jiao deng chang: huo yue yi xing bie he ti ye di ming yi [Enter the Clowns].
Guangzhou Shi: Hua cheng chu ban she, 1998.
(294 p.; ISBN 9787536027299)

In Chinese.

Novel.

As mentioned in the Introduction above, this is noted as contemplating “the relationship between gender and sexuality” and, together with Cui’s Mei gui chuang ta [listed below], as the “first PRC-published tongzhi novels covering sexual and gender ‘transgression’ in all variations.”

Cui, Zi'en.

Mei gui chuang ta: huo yue pao he tao de ji xian [The Rose Bed].
Guangzhou Shi: Hua sheng chu ban she, 1998.
(263 p.; ISBN 9787536027534)

In Chinese.

Novel.

See annotation note above at Cui Zi'en's Chou jiao deng chang.

Cui, Zi'en.

Tao se zui chun [Peach-colored Lips].
Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Hua sheng shu dian, 1997.
(214 p.; ISBN 9789629220044)

In Chinese (and see note on French translation, below).

Novel.

“...there are four narrators: the director of a hospice for the terminally ill; Ye Hongju, who spends his dying days under the director’s care; Xiaomao, the director’s thirty-year-old son; and a man named Chunyu Xianfeng. The director listens and reacts as...[the other three] tell their stories, challenging the heterosexual director with their different understandings of homosexuality....”; [etc.]. (ref.: Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature, “Same-sex Love in Recent Chinese Literature,” p. 493).

See further note about title in Introduction above, at People’s Republic of China. Marketed as China’s first homosexual novel; publisher also issued Ta. ta ta ta de gu shi, listed below.

French translation as: Lèvres pêche (Paris: Gallimard, 2010).

Das, Ansh [Das, Anshuman].

Always Forever.
Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2012.
(282 p.; ISBN 9789881554284)

Available in English or Chinese.

“...memoir that opens on the sidelines of the glamorous Mr. Gay World event, flies high on the wings of love, crawls through the depths of death and rises again with a hope for the future” (ref.: Tongzhi Literary Group [Hong Kong] website).

Chinese pinyin transliterated title: Yi zhi dao yong yuan (Signal 8 Press).

Author is from India and lives in Hong Kong (anshdas.com website)

This title is also listed in INDIA section.

Das, Ansh [Das, Anshuman].

The Memory of a Face.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2011.

Available in English or Chinese.

“What is love? Is it the craving to be with him or is it the realization that you should let him go? Is it about telling him how he makes you feel or is it about suffering in silence?....” (from author website)

Set in Hong Kong/China.

Chinese pinyin transliterated title: Ji de na rong yan (Signal 8 Press, 2014).

Chinese edition ebook also noted on Goodreads.com website, published by Smashwords, 2014 (ISBN 9789881219787).

Author is from India and lives in Hong Kong (anshdas.com website)

This title is also listed in INDIA section.

Dong, Qizhang [Tung, Kaicheung].

An zhuo zhen ni [Androgyny].

2 ban; Taipei Shi: Lian he wen xue chu ban she gu fen you xian gong si, 2010. (223 p.; ISBN 9789575228743)

In Chinese.

Novel.

Award-winning work by a Hong Kong writer in which “a married woman finds her potential for lesbianism while investigating androgynous lizards”

(“Hong Kong, Literature” entry, by Ta-wei Chi, in Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture).

Earlier published in 1996.

Note: Ta-wei Chi also notes Dong’s Double Corporeality, in which “a man in Japan wakes up to find himself transformed into a woman”.

Du, Xiulan.

Ni nü [Rebel Daughter (title also rendered in English as: Unfilial Daughter)].

Taipei Shi: Huang guan wen xue chu ban, 1995.

(285 p.; ISBN 9789573312802)

In Chinese.

“The narrator, Ding Tianshi, is a smart, wild tomboy growing up in the Taipei suburbs in the 1970s and 1980s....”; “[The work] is worth mention as a lesbian

counterpart to [Bai Xianrong's] Crystal Boys" (Thomas Moran essay, in Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature, p. 490).

Fu, Kim.

For Today I Am a Boy: A Novel.

Toronto: HarperCollins, 2014.

(242 p.; ISBN 9781443412643)

Novel.

"Peter Huang [son of Chinese immigrants] and his sisters grow up in a house of many secrets, then escape the confines of small-town Ontario and spread from Montreal to California to Berlin. Peter's own journey is obstructed by playground bullies, masochistic lovers, Christian ex-gays and the ever-present shadow of his Chinese father....Peter was the one who would finally embody his immigrant father's ideal of power and masculinity. But Peter has different dreams; he is certain he is a girl" (ref.: Goodreads).

Guo, Qiangsheng [Kuo, Chiang-sheng].

Duan dai [The Division between Generations].

Taipei Shi: Mai tian chu ban: Cheng bang wen hua shi ye gu fen you xian fen gong si, 2015.

(312 p.; ISBN 9789863442141)

In Chinese.

Described as a kind of sequel to Crystal Boys, starting from 1980s Taiwan, to modern times (ref. amazon.com, Books, as noted under English title).

There is a 2018 Beijing imprint. Note various OCLC WorldCat records.

Hong, Ying.

A Lipstick Called Red Pepper: Fiction about Gay & Lesbian Love in China.

Compiled by Henry Zhao; translated by Herbert Batt and others.

Bochum [Germany]: Projekt Verlag, 1999.

(165 p.; ISBN 9783897330320)

Short stories.

Chinese title/imprint: Dai an de lu (Taipei Shi: San min shu ju, 1996) [see OCLC]

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei].

"A Faun's Afternoon." Translated from Chinese by Dave Haysom.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2015 issue (Queer Issue VI) (online).

In English and Chinese (bilingually posted).

Short story.

"...puts Debussy's famous pastoral to an urban narrative" (issue introduction).

Aso, a young student, meets K on a visit to a Taiwanese spa town.

Author, at time of story posting, was a Taiwanese literature professor in Taipei.

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei].

Gan guan shi jie [Queer Senses: A Story Cycle of Sexualities].

Taipei Shi: Ping shi chu ban you xian gong si, 1995.

(270 p.; ISBN 9789578030497)

In Chinese.

Short stories reinterpreting fairy tales, exploring homosexuality and social morality from an LGBTQ perspective.

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei].

Lian wu pi [Fetish Stories].

Taipei Shi: Shi bao wen hua chu ban qi ye gu fen you xian gong si, 1998.

(259 p.; ISBN 9789571327310)

In Chinese.

Challenges to gender and sexual stereotypes; reflects issues in a changing Taiwan in a more straightforward manner (as noted on Taiwan Ministry of Culture website > Cultural Features > Contemporary Artists > Writers, Poets & Illustrators – entry for Chi, Ta-wei).

Includes a critique by Fran Martin, in English.

Ji, Dawei [Chi, Ta-wei].

Mo [Membrane]. Taipei Shi: Lian jing chu ban, 2011 (also 1996 imprint).

(448 p.; ISBN 9789570837698)

In Chinese.

Novel.

High-tech science fiction in which an android is controlled by a human brain.

Explores gender issues and self-identity.

Translated to French as: Membrane (Paris: Asiathèque, 2015).

Jiang, Shaoqi [Kong, Shiu Ki Travis].

Oral Histories of Older Gay Men in Hong Kong: Unspoken but Unforgotten.

Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2019.

(ISBN 9789888528066)

In English; earlier published in Chinese (see below in this annotation)

Interviews of men who relate experiences in dealing with sexuality in a time quite different from the present.

Published in Chinese as: Nan nan zheng zhuan: Xianggang nian zhang nan

tong zhi kou shu shi (Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Jin yi bu duo mei ti you xian gong si, 2014 (233 p.; ISBN 9789888011360)).

Jing, Xianghai.

“Very Cheesy and Also Rather Blah.” Translated from Chinese by

Lee Yew Leong.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2013 (Queer Issue IV) (online).

In English and Chinese (bilingually posted).

This is a single, short **poem**.

A powerful expression of a man's memory of the pain of unrequited love as the he looks at photos from an old relationship:

"it's just that / if somebody should set me down / again carelessly /
I couldn't take it the second time / ..."

Author is Taiwanese.

Ku'er kuang huan jie: Taiwan dang dai Queer wen xue du ben.

[Queer Carnival: A Reader of Contemporary Queer Literature from Taiwan].

Ji Dawei zhu bian. Taibei Shi: Yuan zun wen hua chu ban qi ye gu fen you xian gong si, 1997.

In Chinese.

Anthology.

Lai, Larissa.

The Tiger Flu: A Novel.

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018.

(333 p.; ISBN 9781551527314)

Novel.

Dystopian sci-fi thriller; "...a community of parthenogenic women, sent into exile... goes to war against disease, technology, and powerful men that threaten them with extinction..." (OCLC catalog record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Lesbian Fiction.

Lai's earlier works include When Fox Is a Thousand and Salt Fish Girl.

Law, Benjamin.

The Family Law.

Melbourne, Australia: Black Inc., 2010 (and later editions).

(220 p.; ISBN 9781863954785)

Biography.

"Invites readers into the world of the author's endearing yet profoundly eccentric family..." (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Author is Australian and the openly gay son of immigrant parents from Hong Kong and Malaysia. He is the author also of a collection of country-by-country essays on gay life across eastern and southern Asia, Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East (2012), for which see this list at ASIA heading.

Lee, Quentin.

Dress Like a Boy.

San Jose, CA: Writers Club Press, 2000.
(181 p.; ISBN 9780595127856)

Novel.

“A gay student at UC Berkeley from Hong Kong has complicated relationships with a bisexual boyfriend and a closeted cousin” (ref.: Walker).

Author is a Hong Kong-born Chinese-Canadian/American film writer and director.

Leung, Brian.

World Famous Love Acts: Stories.

Louisville, Kentucky: Sarabande Books, 2004.
(202 p.; ISBN 9781889330167)

Short stories.

“The son of a Chinese immigrant writes short stories that include gay and straight characters and various relationships” (ref.: Walker).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Debut Fiction.

Lin, Youxuan [Lin, Yu-hsuan].

“Nü er ming” [Destined for a Daughter].

In Born This Way (Taipei: Chiu Ko Publishing Co., 2014)
(book: ISBN 9789860303360)

In Chinese.

Short story.

Central characters are “a transgender gay youth and his sixtyish father. The younger man has a penchant for wearing women’s clothing, and unexpectedly discovers that his father shares the same predilection....” (ref.: annotation, Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit, LGBT Literature webpage [see Sources])

Ling, Yan.

Shi sheng hua mei [The Silent Thrush]. Taibei Shi: Zi li wan bao, 1990.
(290 p.; ISBN 9789575960919)

In Chinese.

Novel.

Di 2 ban [2nd edition], 1991.

“...depicts the lives of common people in southern Taiwan in the mid-1980s.

To satisfy audience demand, a traveling Taiwanese opera troupe has added strip-shows to its outdoor engagements, and troupe members are no longer concerned with the quality of operatic performance – thus, the beautiful bird of the title – traditional Taiwanese opera – sings no more. Although the troupe’s men and women put in long work hours and earn only meagre wages, they still find the time and energy to involve themselves in various heterosexual and

homosexual relationships....” (from synopsis by Ta-wei Chi at: Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit website (toolkit.culture.tw) > Literature > Themes > LGBT Literature: The Silent Thrush by Ling Yan [see Sources]).
Work won Independence Times Novel Prize, 1991.

Liu, Timothy.

NOTE: Liu is a prolific poet. User should check for additional works which may exist beyond those listed below.

Author is gay and was born in San Jose, California, in 1965. He grew up as a Mormon, living in Hong Kong for two years as a Mormon missionary. He is a professor of English. (See, e.g., “An Interview with Timothy Liu,” by Andrena Zawinski, archived at web.archive.org, and author’s website at www.timothyliu.net [both viewed Dec. 2019]).

Liu, Timothy.

Bending the Mind around the Dream’s Blown Fuse: Poems.
Jersey City, NJ: Talisman House, 2009.
(90 p.; ISBN 9781584980650)

Poetry.

“...several autobiographical poems, some about...search for a lover who disappeared in Greece” (ref.: Walker)

Liu, Timothy.

Burnt Offerings.
Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 1995.
(68 p.; ISBN 9781556591044)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

Don’t Go Back to Sleep.
Ardmore, PA: Saturnalia; Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 2014.
(92 p.; ISBN 9780991545407)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

For Dust Thou Art: Poems.
Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2005.
(66 p.; ISBN 9780809326525, etc.)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

Hard Evidence: Poems.

Jersey City, NJ: Talisman House, 2001.

(112 p.; ISBN 9781584980223, etc.)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

Of Thee I Sing: Poems.

Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2004.

(66 p.; ISBN 9780820326009)

Poetry.

"Intense devotion to gay male desire collides with painful self-scrutiny, political protest and snapshots of far-flung America" (ref.: Walker)

Liu, Timothy.

Polytheogamy. With Greg Drasler.

Philadelphia: Saturnalia; Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 2009.

(93 p.; ISBN 9780981859101)

Poetry (with illustrative material).

Collaboration of Liu with painter Greg Drasler "explores themes of sexuality, marriage, monogamy, and fidelity" (ref.: Walker).

Liu, Timothy.

Say Goodnight: Poems.

Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 1998.

(100 p.; ISBN 9781556590856)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Poetry.

Liu, Timothy.

Vox Angelica: Poems.

Cambridge, MA: Alice James Books, 1992.

(58 p.; ISBN 9780914086970)

Poetry.

Norma Farber First Book Award (Poetry Society of America).

Lu, Marie.

The Midnight Star.

New York: G. P. Putnam's, 2016.

(316 p.; ISBN 9780399167850)

Novel.

Fantasy; third and final book in The Young Elites trilogy.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBTQ Children's/Young Adult.

Author born Xiwei Lu in Wuxi, China, and lives in Los Angeles.

Lu, Min.

“Scissors, Shining.” Translated from Chinese by Michael Day.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June-July 2019 (Queer Issue X) (online).

Novel excerpt.

Xiaotong, 15, is apprenticed to tailor Master Song, and is described by clients as “so dainty and delicate, just like a little girl”; Master Song, 34, is gossiped about because he is not comfortable with the approaches of a beautiful female client who wishes to sleep with him....

Ma, Jiahui [Ma, Kafai].

Long tou feng wei [Once Upon a Time in Hong Kong].

Taipei Shi: Xin jing dian tu wen chuan bo you xian gong si, 2016.

In Chinese.

Novel.

Translated into **French** as: Hong Kong Gang (Genève [Suisse]: Slatkine & Cie, 2019.

Protagonist Luk Pakchoi: “Le jour, il est chef mafieux, et ses nuits, il les partage avec un officier de renseignement britannique” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Qiu, Miaojin [Chiu, Miao-Chin].

Last Words from Montmartre. Translated from Chinese by Ari Larissa Heinrich.

New York: New York Review of Books, 2014.

(161 p.; ISBN 9781590177259, etc.)

Novel.

Story of the passionate unravelling relationship of two young women, told through a series of letters.

Author, a Taiwanese novelist, left behind this unpublished manuscript when she committed suicide in 1995 at the age of 26.

Qiu, Miaojin [Chiu, Miao-Chin].

Notes of a Crocodile. Translated from Chinese by Bonnie Huie.

New York: New York Review of Books, 2017.

(242 p.; ISBN 9781681370767)

Novel.

Coming-of-age work, set in post-martial law era of 1990s Taipei, Taiwan.

“...depicts...a group of queer misfits discovering love, friendship and artistic affinity while hardly studying at Taiwan’s most prestigious university. Told through the eyes of an anonymous lesbian narrator nicknamed Lazi....”

(from OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Translation of: E yu shou ji (originally published: Taipei Shi: Shi bao wen hua, 1994. (284 p.; ISBN 9789571311210) [see OCLC WorldCat for various editions and formats])

Quan, Andy.

Calendar Boy.

Vancouver, BC: New Star Books, 2001.

(228 p.; ISBN 9780921586821)

Short stories.

Immigrants to Canada and their experiences of and adjustments to cultural differences, including differences in the lives of gay males.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Small Press.

Author is Chinese-Canadian of Cantonese background, born in Vancouver in 1969, and living in Australia.

Quan, Andy.

Six Positions: Sex Writing.

San Francisco: Green Candy, 2005.

(224 p.; ISBN 9781931160360, etc.)

Erotic stories.

Quan, Andy.

Slant.

Roberts Creek, BC: Nightwood Editions, 2001.

(111 p.; ISBN 9780889711792)

Poetry.

Themes of childhood and family in the Chinese diaspora, including themes of gay sexuality, community, and rites of passage (ref.: Google Books).

Raymond, T. M.

Fear the Living: A No Sin Mystery.

[Scotts Valley, CA?]: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2014.

(532 p.; ISBN 9781499283471)

Novel.

Young gay Chinese immigrant helps rich white detective investigate murders in the Depression years; “...takes many of the stereotypes of thirties’ [1930s] detective genre and turns them on their heads....” (refs.: Walker and amazon.com, Books).

Red Is Not the Only Color: Contemporary Chinese Fiction on Love and Sex between Women: Collected Stories. Edited by Patricia Sieber.
Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.
(201 p.; ISBN 9780742511385)

Short story anthology.

“These stories introduce an emerging generation of women writers, including Chen Ran, Bikwan Wong and Chen Xue. By presenting fiction from the PRC, Hong Kong and Taiwan, the collection deliberately maps the literary contours of same-sex intimacy in cultural rather than in purely political terms” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

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In Search of the Lost Wings of Angels / Chen Xue

Andante / He An

Sie, James.

Still Life Las Vegas.

New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2015.

(326 p.; ISBN 9781250055668)

Novel.

Coming-of-age and coming-out story.

“Recent high school graduate and aspiring artist Walter Stahl lives with his ailing father in...Las Vegas, their lives overshadowed by Walter’s mother, who drove off when he was five and never returned....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Fiction.

Author is American-born Chinese.

“The Story of a Homosexual: An Interview with Ni Dongxue.”

Interview by Liao Yiwu; translated from Chinese by Wenguang Huang.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2011 (Queer Issue II) (online).

Interview/Biography.

“I met Ni Dongxue in 2006, in a quiet and nicely decorated gay bar...located in the city’s Moziqiao region....A pioneer and recognized leader in Chengdu’s gay community, the then-thirty-six-year-old Ni, graduated from Beijing Teachers’ University with a master’s degree in psychology....” (interviewer’s

introduction). The interview follows.

Interviewer was born in Sichuan; his books have been published in Hong Kong and Taiwan, but are banned in mainland China (from profile following the interview in Words Without Borders Magazine)

Su, Tong.

Sui wa [Broken Tile]. Nanjing: Jiang su wen yi chu ban she, 1997.
(246 p.; ISBN 9787539911496)

In Chinese.

Novel.

“... first novel to explore same-sex desire,” although it “[dealt] with homosexuality only tangentially”; “[i]t opened the way for more explicit novels” such as those of Cui Zi’en and Tong Ge (see note in Introduction, People’s Republic of China section, and see at Cui and Tong on the list)

Ta ta ta ta de gu shi: Zhong Gang Tai zuo zhe duan pian xiao shuo ji [His-His Her-Her Stories: Short Stories by Authors of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong].
Lu Jianxiong [John Loo] zhu bian. Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Hua sheng, 1996.
(300 p.; ISBN 9629220016)

In Chinese.

Short stories.

Di 2 ban [2nd edition], 1997.

Thom, Kai Cheng.

Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars: A Dangerous Trans Girl’s Confabulous Memoir.

Montreal: Metonymy Press, 2019.
(188 p.; ISBN 9780994047137)

Novel.

“...a coming-of-age story about a young Asian trans girl, pathological liar, and kung fu expert, who runs away from her parents’ abusive home....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Thom, Kai Cheng.

A Place Called No Homeland.

Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2017.
(83 p.; ISBN 9781551526799)

Poetry.

The poet “draws equally from memory and mythology to create new maps of gender, race, sexuality, and violence” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author is Canadian of Chinese heritage.

Tong, Ge.

Hao nan Luo Ge [Good Man Gelu / Good Man Rogo].
Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Hua sheng shu dian, 1997.
(263 p.; ISBN 9789629220051)

In Chinese.

Novel.

Mainland Chinese author published in Hong Kong.

See note in Introduction, People's Republic of China section.

Tse, Chris.

He's So Masc.

Auckland, New Zealand: Auckland University Press, 2018.
(84 p.; ISBN 9781869408879)

Poetry.

"[C]onfronts a contemporary world of self-loathing poets and compulsive liars, of youth and sexual identity, and of the author as character....[U]napologetically sentimental and personal reflection on what it means to perform and dissect identity, as a poet and a person" (Book cover)

Wang, Timothy.

Slant: A Novel.

Maple Shade, NJ [USA]: Tincture/Lethe Press, 2011.
(210 p.; ISBN 9781590211212)

Novel.

An Asian college student in the US decides he is gay and sets about trying to determine the parts of himself that he thinks others dislike, and to change himself. In the process he loses the sense of who he once was.

Author is a Chinese-American who "has lived in Utah, Boston, New York, Seattle, Shanghai and Beijing, and still hasn't set down his roots anywhere" (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Wang, Xiaobo.

"Shishui loqing" [Tender Feelings].

In Di jiu tian chang: Wang Xiaobo xiao shuo ju ben ji [Everlasting and Unchanging: An Anthology of Fiction and Scripts by Wang Xiaobo].

Changchun Shi: Shi dai wen yi chu ban she, 1998.

Anthology ISBN: 9787545201499; see also 2008 Shanghai imprint [in OCLC])

In Chinese.

Story, which "[led] the charge in foregrounding the subject of homosexuality" (Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture, "China, *Tongzhi* Literature" essay).

The Routledge essay also notes that China's first gay film, *East Palace West*

Palace (Dong gong xi gong, Zhang Yuan, 1996) was based on this story.
NOTE: the transliterated Chinese title and English title translation of the story are **as given** in the Routledge essay.

Wang, Zhenhe.

Rose, Rose, I Love You. Translated from Chinese by Howard Goldblatt.
New York: Columbia University Press, 1998.
(183 p.; ISBN 9780231112024)

Novel.

“An English-language school for prostitutes opens in Taiwan. It is the brainchild of a pimp who is keen to improve service for American soldiers on R & R from the Vietnam War. A first novel” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

“There are two types of gays in the novel: type one is represented by Dr. Yun, a physician and family man who has a penchant for young males; the second type are American soldiers, some of whom...will hanker to pair up with young men of Hualian [but soldiers do not appear in the book].... Written at [the] height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, [the novel]...is perhaps the first work of Taiwanese literature to mention the disease” (ref.: Taiwan Ministry of Culture, Taiwan Culture Toolkit, LGBT Literature webpage [see Sources]).
Chinese title in transliteration: Mei gui mei gui wo ai ni.

Wat, Eric C.

Swim. Sag Harbor, NY: Permanent Press, 2019.
(272 p.; ISBN 9781579625740)

Novel.

Carson Chow, an addict, has numerous family difficulties, including the death of his mother, with whom he has been close. Carson is rejected in an attempt to find support from Jeremy, his ex, who is now clean, and has to struggle alone.
Author born in Hong Kong and lives in Los Angeles.

Wilson-Yang, Jia Qing.

Small Beauty.
Montreal: Metonymy Press, 2016.
(161 p.; ISBN 9780994047120)

Novel.

Mei, a Chinese-Canadian trans woman, leaves her city life to live in a small town in the house of a cousin who has died. She connects there with her own and her cousin's histories and reflects on the past.
Lambda Literary Awards winner for Transgender Fiction.
Also published: Melbourne [Australia]: Brow Books, 2018.

Wong, Danny.

Waltzing Matilda Memoirs. Central Milton Keynes [UK]: AuthorHouse, 2010.
(215 p.; ISBN 9781449098544, 9781449098537)

Short stories.

Eighteen gay stories; Hong Kong.

Wong, Nicholas.

Crevasse.

Los Angeles; New York: Kaya Press, 2015.
(76 p.; ISBN 9781885030207)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Gay Poetry.

NOTE: Chinese translation: Tian lie (Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Shui zhu yu wen hua zhi zuo you xian gong si, 2018; 201 pages).

See OCLC WorldCat for Chinese edition information, including Chinese-character title and imprint.

Author was born and raised in Hong Kong.

Wong, Norman.

Cultural Revolution: Stories.

New York: Persea Books, 1994.
(177 p.; ISBN 9780892551972)

Short stories.

A gay teenager who makes a trip back to China is a member of the immigrant family that is the subject of these short stories.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men's Fiction.

Yanyi.

The Year of Blue Water.

New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2019.
(96 p.; ISBN 9780300242645)

Poetry.

Yanyi's poems are experiences of immigration, racism, and gender from a queer and trans viewpoint (adapted from Google Books website description)

Ye, Zhiwei [Ip, Chi-wai].

Tu ran du shen = Suddenly Single. Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Kubrick, 2012
(156 p.; ISBN 9789881550675)

In Chinese (also available in English -- see English edition note below).

Novel.

Published earlier in Chinese by Friendmily Business, 2003.

“One day, after being in love and living with his boyfriend for seven years, Linus finds out that he has been cheated on...” (ref.: amazon.com, Books: Description for Suddenly Single, published 2011, electronic Kindle edition in English).

NOTE: Author has published several other works in Chinese. For some of those titles, see the Hong Kong Towards Full Citizenship bibliography (ref. in Sources).

Yee, Paul.

Money Boy.

Toronto: Groundwood Books/House of Anansi, 2011.
(184 p.; ISBN 9781554980949)

Novel.

“After his Chinese immigrant father discovers he has been cruising gay websites, eighteen-year-old Ray Liu is kicked out of the house and heads to downtown Toronto, where he faces the harsh realities of life on the street” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Stonewall Book Awards: Young Adult Literature Honor Book.

Author is Chinese-Canadian, born in Saskatchewan and raised in Vancouver’s Chinatown

Zhan, Jie.

“Taste of Love.” Translated by Jeremy Tiang.

In Global Queer Plays: Seven LGBTQ+ Works from around the World.

London: Osborne Books, 2018.

Drama.

See the ASIA heading for additional information about Global Queer Plays.

Zhang, Haoyin.

Shanghai wang shi: ta he ta de gu shi [The Bygone Days of Shanghai].

Nanning Shi: Guangxi ren min chu ban she, 2003.

(206 p.; ISBN 9787219047644)

In Chinese.

Novel.

As noted earlier in Introduction above, explores “intimate relationships between women” and appeared initially as an online serial novel.

Zhou, Huashan [Chou, Wah-s(h)an].

Beijing tong zhi gu shi [Stories of Beijing Gays].

Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Xianggang tong zhi yan jiu she, 1996.

(188 p.)

In Chinese.

Short stories.

OCLC WorldCat notes a French translation under title:
Histoires de “camarades”: les homosexuels en Chine (Paris: Paris Méditerranée, 1996)

Zhou, Huashan [Chou, Wah-s(h)an].
Xianggang tong zhi gu shi [Stories of Hong Kong Gays].
Xianggang [Hong Kong]: Xianggang tong zhi yan jiu she, 1995.
(191 p.; ISBN 9789628502622)

In Chinese.
Short stories.

Zhou, Longzhang [Chow, Alan].
Deng huo Niuyue shou ren wu = My Lustrous Life.
Taibei Shi: Da kuai wen hua chu ban gu fen you xian gong si, 2015.
(312 p.; ISBN 9789862135747)

In Chinese.
Biography.
Author Alan Chow is well-known in Hong Kong and Taiwan, having worked for many decades in arranging performances of Chinese artists in New York. Library of Congress catalog notes as biography of an Asian American gay artist. Title of Beijing edition (2016): Xi meng Niuyue = My Lustrous Life. See OCLC WorldCat for **Chinese-character** author/titles/imprints.

Zhu, Tianwen [Chu, T'ien-wen].
Notes of a Desolate Man. Translated from Chinese by Howard Goldblatt and Sylvia Li-chun Lin. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.
(169 p.; ISBN 9780231116084)

Novel.
“This post-modern, first-person tale of a contemporary Taiwanese gay man reflecting on his life, loves, and intellectual influences is among the most important recent novels in Taiwan.” It was winner of the China Times Novel Prize (OCCLC catalog record Summary).
“...a work of introspection in which the main character, Xiao Shao, a gay intellectual, mourns the loss of a close friend from AIDS” (Stephen D. Miller, “Asia, Literature” essay [see Introduction, above]).
“The narrator, Shao, is forty and gay. He lives in Taipei and is a well-off, well-traveled sophisticate. Shao tells the story of his life and loves and contrasts himself with his childhood friend Ah Yao, who has died of AIDS. Ah Yao was a political activist and sexual adventurer confident in his identity as queer; Shao is a reluctant epicurean tormented by efforts to figure out who he is” (Thomas Moran, in Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature, p. 492).
Translation of: Huang ren shou ji (Taibei Shi: Shi bao wen hua, 1994).
Translations also into Japanese and Korean (see OCLC WorldCat).

PHILIPPINES

This section notes works in English and Tagalog.

Queer literature in the Philippines appeared later than in Western countries. Although emerging in the 1960s, the literature “has only flourished since the 1990s.” Works are written in both Tagalog and English, but “[r]elatively few Tagalog writings have been translated into English” Two early writers mentioned as having, in the 1970s, “challenged the conservative macho culture” are Orlando Nadres (playwright) and Elena Padron (ref.: Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture, “Philippines, Literature” entry [see Sources list]).

Alumit, Noel.

Letters to Montgomery Clift: A Novel.

Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 2003.

(244 p.; ISBN 9781555838157)

Novel.

Coming-of-age story of a Filipino boy who searches for his mother imprisoned under the Marcos government.

Stonewall Award for Literature;

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Fiction;

Violet Quill Award.

Alumit, Noel.

Talking to the Moon: A Novel.

New York: Carroll & Graf, 2007.

(340 p.; ISBN 9780786716296)

Novel.

In Los Angeles, a gay son and his boyfriend experience the racially-charged shooting of his Filipino-American father.

Barrett, Kay Ulanday.

When the Chant Comes.

New York: Topside Press, 2016.

(116 p.; ISBN 9781627290159)

Poetry.

Author’s first poetry collection, speaking to love, justice, disability.

Author, born in Michigan [USA], has a mother of Filipina background, and identifies as transgender.

Bautista, Brigitte.

Don't Tell My Mother. Mandaluyong [Philippines]: Spark Books, an imprint of Anvil Publishing, 2017.
(106 p.; ISBN 9786214201051)

Novel.

"19-year-old Sam has never had problems navigating through Christian suburbia before. But, all that changes when she befriends and becomes intrigued with Clara, her widowed neighbor and the village's social outcast...." (ref.: "Local Books to Read This Pride Month"[see Sources])

Casocot, Ian Rosales.

Beautiful Accidents: Stories. Diliaman, Quezon City [Philippines]: University of the Philippines Press, 2011.
(185 p.; ISBN 9789715426589)

Short stories.

"...his collection of stories with frank LGBT themes was nominated for the National Book Award in 2012."

Author is a creative writer, journalist, and university teacher
(ref.: Wikipedia: Ian Casocot)

Casocot, Ian Rosales, and Sison, Shakira Andrea C.

Don't Tell Anyone: Literary Smut.
Manila: Anvil Publishing, 2017.
(157 p.; ISBN 9786214201006)

Short stories.

"This book makes up for...[a] history of invalidation. An unprecedented dirty dozen,...[the]stories are direct and unflinching. They make no...apologies about the nature of sex between two men or between two women...." (ref.: "Local Books to Read This Pride Month" [see Sources]).

Castillo, Elaine.

America Is Not the Heart: A Novel. New York: Viking, 2018.
(408 p.; ISBN 9780735222410)

Novel.

Set in the San Francisco Bay area.

Note protagonist Hero De Vera, and Rosalyn.

"...the foreground [of the novel] is all about the power, pleasure and peril of kinship and romance, set in a beautifully, intimately drawn portrait of the Filipino American community. Plus lots of queer sex" (refs.: Viet Thanh Nguyen, in " 'Love, Loss and Longing': The Best Books on Migration, Chosen by Writers," The Guardian (www.theguardian.com), 6 February 2020 (online); Daniel C. Tsang communication).

“For me it was very important to write about queer women, bi women in particular, because I’m also bi and I don’t see any representations of bi women anywhere, especially not bi Filipino or Asian Americans” (ref.: “A Little Bit Like Worship: An Interview with Elaine Castillo,” by Yasman Adele Majeed, Asian American Writers’ Workshop (www.aaww.org), April 25, 2018 (online)).

Garcia, J. Neil C.

Closet Quivers. Manila: Kalikasan Press, 1992.
(138 p.; ISBN 9789718577875)

Poetry.

Noted as a work from that period that focused on self-affirmation (ref.: Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture article, “Philippines, Literature” [see Sources]).

Ladlad: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing. Edited by J. Neil C. Garcia and Danton Remoto. Manila: Anvil, 1994.
(295 p.; ISBN 9789712703508, etc.)

In Tagalog and English.

Anthology.

NOTE: similar later titles, including:

Ladlad 2: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing (Anvil, 1996);

Ladlad 3: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing (Anvil, 2007);

The Best of Ladlad: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing (Anvil, 2014)

(See OCLC WorldCat records for additional details about these).

Legaspi, Joseph O.

Imago: Poems.

Fort Lee, New Jersey: CavanKerry Press, 2007; Manila: UST Publishing, 2015.
(83 p.; ISBN 9781933880037 (CavanKerry); 9789715067454 (UST))

Poetry.

Author is Philippines-born; family immigrated to the US when he was young.

Legaspi, Joseph O.

Threshold.

Fort Lee, New Jersey: CavanKerry Press; distributed by University of Chicago Press, 2017.
(100 p.; ISBN 9781933880631)

Poetry

Linmark, R. Zamora.

Leche: A Novel.

Minneapolis, MN: Coffee House Press, 2011.

(355 p.; ISBN 9781566892728)

Novel.

Vince, a gay Filipino, “[a]fter thirteen years of living in the U.S,...returns to his birthplace, the Philippines. As he ventures into the heat and chaos of the city, he encounters a motley cast of characters....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Nery, Peter Solis.

100 Erotic Sonnets from the Hiligaynon.

[United States]: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2010.

(132 p.; ISBN 9781453710715)

Poetry.

Translated from Hiligaynon to English.

Nery, Peter Solis.

Funny, Sad, and Dangerous: Three Award-winning Short Plays.

[USA]: Independently published, 2019.

(132 p.; ISBN 9781089031048)

Drama.

“Three Palanca Award-winning 21st-century one-act plays by multi-awarded Filipino playwright....Includes ‘The Wide Ionian Sea’ (2010), ‘Gladiolas’ (2014), and ‘Tic-Tac-Toe’ (2016)” (ref.: amazon.com. Books).

NOTE: Amazon.com presents this as an item in English, whereas elsewhere the play “Gladiolas” is said to have been written in Filipino. Compiler does not know if this collection is a translation.

Nery, Peter Solis.

A Loneliness Greater than Love. Iloilo, Philippines: DreamWings Pub., 2000.

(56 p.; ISBN 9789719214601)

Poetry.

“...an exploration of homoerotic themes” (ref.: Wikipedia: Peter Solis Nery).

Nery, Peter Solis.

Welcome to Grindr: A Play. [United States]: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, c2016.

(102 p.; ISBN 9781515143437)

Drama.

“...a story of the sexual and romantic odyssey of a Filipino writer lost in his first winter in America....” (ref.: Google Books).

Ong, Han.

The Disinherited: A Novel.

New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004.
(369 p.; ISBN 9780374280758)

Novel.

“...forty-four-year-old Roger Caracera...returns to the land of his birth after nearly three decades in the United States...for the funeral of his estranged father....[He] is stunned to discover he has been left a small fortune. Unable to live with his inheritance,...Roger decides to give his money away.” His wish to give some of it to a male prostitute friend of his late uncle disturbs his relatives. A wide cast of characters. (OCLC WorldCat record Summary). Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Fiction.

Author born and educated in the Philippines and went to the US as a teenager. He was named a MacArthur Fellow in 1997. This was his first novel, following several critically-acclaimed plays.

Ong, Han.

Fixer Chao.

New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2001.
(377 p.; ISBN 9780374155759)

Novel.

“When William Narciso Paulinha [aka Master Chao, a gay Filipino hustler]... meets Shem C, a disreputable social-climbing writer embittered by his lack of success, the Feng Shui scam of the century is born” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Ortile, Matt.

The Groom Will Keep His Name. [New York]: Bold Type Books, 2020.
(ISBN 9781541762794)

Essays/Memoir.

“Collection...from a gay Filipino immigrant in the United States...[who] explores what every gay immigrant faces when moving to the West: the search for identity and sexual exploration. This debut also documents Ortile’s social awakening...[concerning] race and ethnicity” (refs.: Arvyn Cerézo, “5 of the Most Anticipated Books from Asian Authors in 2020,” article dated 02-05-20 posted at Bookriot.com [viewed Feb. 8, 2020]; Daniel C. Tsang communication). **NOTE:** the book is **forthcoming** (June 2020) as of date of this entry.

Pamatmat, A. Rey.

Thunder Above, Deep Below.

New York: Samuel French, 2012.
(81 p.; ISBN 9780573700170)

Drama.

“Three homeless friends – a Filipina-American with a hidden past,

a Filipina transsexual, and a Puerto Rican hustler – struggle in the Chicago streets to scrounge up enough cash to bus it to San Francisco before the winter cold hits....” (ref.: Google Books).

Ramos, Ricardo.

Flipping. Oakland, CA: Floating Lotus, 1998.
(181 p.; ISBN 9780942777147)

Novel.

The author has “produced one of the most shocking and perhaps controversial gay-oriented books of the year [i.e., 1998]. [The book] is raw, outrageous, hysterically funny, fascinatingly human, very politically incorrect....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

“...three Filipino males who have sex with males come to terms with their sexuality in different ways....[T]he two main narrators...are not afraid to reveal attitudes that are instantly condemned by the keepers of political correctness....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books: Review)

Author is American-born, of Filipino heritage.

Ramos, Ricardo.

Searching for the Key: A Novel.
San Jose, CA: Writers Club Press, 2002.
(186 p.; ISBN 9780595228126)

Novel.

“A Japanese-American wife manipulates her husband into bed with a gay Filipino co-worker” (ref.: Walker).

Compiler note: this work has also been listed in the JAPAN section.

Realuyo, Bino A.

The Umbrella Country.
New York: Ballantine Books, 1999.
(298 p.; ISBN 9780345428882)

Novel.

The awakening to adulthood of Gringo, a young boy in the slums of Manila. Gringo, who is gay, later immigrates to the US.

Remoto, Danton.

Riverrun: A Novel. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil Publishing, 2015.
(199 p.; ISBN 9789712731716)

Novel.

“...a rite-of-passage” work; “the life of a gay man growing up in a colorful and chaotic dictatorship....” (ref.: “Local Books to Read This Pride Month” [see Sources]).

NOTE: Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture entry, “Philippines, Literature,” mentions Remoto’s earlier work of poetry in English and Tagalog, Skin Voices Faces (1991), as a work focusing on self-affirmation.

Rodriguez, Nice.

Throw It to the River.

Toronto: Women’s Press, 1993.

(156 p.; ISBN 9780889611870)

Short stories.

Comic and erotic stories by a lesbian Filipina journalist immigrant to Canada.

“A collection of short stories, expanding the definition of ‘butch’ while poking sly fun at Canada, the lesbian movement, and butch-femme roles” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Sta.Ana, Art.

He’s Dating the Transgender. With Trixie Maristela.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil Publishing, 2015.

(93 p.; ISBN 9789712731624)

In Tagalog and English.

Biography.

Summary note in Tagalog in OCLC WorldCat record.

“What this book is about, more than anything else, is love....”

(ref.: Foreword, AA Patawaran, Manila Bulletin, as quoted in “Local Books to Read This Pride Month,” for which see Sources).

True Colors: A Spectrum of Filipino Gay and Lesbian Online Writings.

Edited by Nelson Agustin.

Vancouver, BC: Helios, 2001.

(182 p.)

Anthology.

Available as a downloadable e-book from www.heliosmedia.ca

(click on e-books tab and scroll to this title [viewed Dec. 2019]).

Zyrus, Jake.

I Am Jake. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Anvil Publishing, 2018.

(140 p.; ISBN 9789712734472)

Autobiography.

“Charice Pempengco was poised to be the next big global pop star....But, she bravely turned her back on the glittering lights of Hollywood for a bigger dream – to be himself....” (ref.: “Local Books to Read This Pride Month” [see Sources]).

VIETNAM

Entries in this section are all for works in original English published in the United States, with the exception of one translated poem.

Doan, Duy.

We Play a Game. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2018.
(76 p.; ISBN 9780300230888)

Poetry.

“These are poems that draw from Doan’s experience as a Vietnamese-American while at the same time making a case for...the fluidity of identity, history, and language....” (Yale University Press website)
Lambda Literary Award winner for Bisexual Poetry.

Lam, Andrew.

East Eats West: Writing in Two Hemispheres. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 2010.
(169 p.; ISBN 9781597141383)

Essays.

“From cuisine and martial arts to sex and self-esteem,...shines new light on the bridges and crossroads where two hemispheres meld into one worldwide ‘immigration nation’....[C]ollection of twenty-one personal essays....”
(ref.: Google Books website, which includes descriptor “Literary Collections/LGBT”).

Author went to the US at the age of 11, on the eve of the fall of Saigon to communist forces; “Though reticent about speaking about his sexuality, in 2009 Lam gave an interview for a collection of portraits of homosexual Americans” (ref.: Wikipedia: Andrew Lam, which notes Gambone, Travels in a Gay Nation).

Nao, Vi Khi.

The Old Philosopher. New York: Nightboat Books; Lebanon, NH: Distributed by University Press of New England, 2016.
(73 p.; ISBN 9781937658489)

Poetry.

“These quiet, implosive poems inhabit a nonlinear temporality in which Vi Khi Nao brings biblical time and political time together..., allowing current affairs to converse with a more ancient and historical reality” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Poetry.

Nguyen, Hao Van.

True Story: Vietnam to America. As told to Barbara Grether; edited by Valli

Aman.

Bloomington, Indiana [USA]: AuthorHouse, 2005.
(133 p.; ISBN 9781420830248, etc.)

Autobiography.

Story of author's immigration to the US as a child and coming out as a gay man.

Nguyen, Hieu Minh.

Not Here. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Coffee House Press, 2018.
(73 p.; ISBN 9781566895095)

Poetry.

"...a queer Vietnamese American body in confrontation with whiteness, trauma, family, and nostalgia..." (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Nguyen, Hieu Minh.

This Way to the Sugar: Poems. Austin, TX: Write Bloody Publishing, 2014.
(75 p.; ISBN 9781938912443)

Poetry.

"...bruising collection...puts a blade and a microscope to nostalgia, tradition, race, apology, and sexuality, in order to find beauty in a flawed world..." (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Author is US-born Vietnamese-American from Minnesota.

Thuyền, Nhã.

"Nihilism." Translated from Vietnamese by Kaitlen Rees.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018 (Queer Issue IX) (online).

Poem.

"Uncurbed by either pretense or punctuation, ...[the poet] plays with nothingness as the tangibility of meaning";

["In the ongoing fruitless search for a third-person-singular and gender-neutral term that remains both familiar and human in English, as 'hắn' does in Vietnamese, the author and translator have settled on 'that one'"]

(from introduction to the poem in Words Without Borders Magazine).

Vietnamese title: Hu' vô chủ nghĩa.

Truong, Monique T. D.

The Book of Salt. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.
(261 p.; ISBN 9780618304004, etc.)

Novel.

Story told by Binh, a gay Vietnamese cook who leaves 1929 Saigon to work at sea and then works for Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas in

late 1920s/early 1930s Paris.

Author is Vietnamese-American, born in Saigon and living in Brooklyn, New York.

Vuong, Ocean.

Night Sky with Exit Wounds. Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2016. (89 p.; ISBN 9781556594953)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Author is a Vietnamese-born American poet, essayist, and novelist (Wikipedia)

Vuong, Ocean.

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous: A Novel.

New York: Penguin Press, 2019.

(256 p.; ISBN 9780525562023)

Novel.

Written in the form of a letter from a Vietnamese-American son, Little Dog, to his illiterate mother. In the latter part of the novel, Little Dog meets Trevor, with whom he has a romantic relationship.

This work was given high praise in Kirkus Reviews:

“A raw and incandescently written foray into fiction by one of our most gifted poets.”

MALAYSIA

Entries in this section are for works in English, with the exception of one Malay-language anthology.

Body 2 Body: A Malaysian Queer Anthology. Edited by Jerome Kugan and Pang Khee Teik. 2nd ed.; Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: Matahari Books, 2009. (240 p.; ISBN 9789834359690)

Anthology.

“...the first of its kind: a compilation of original creative writing on the gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals and transvestites of the country”; “the queers of Malaysia are boldly and fabulously represented in 23 stories, fiction and non-fiction” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Editors: “Jerome Kugan is a writer and musician who has been living and working in Kuala Lumpur since 2000”; “Pang Khee Teik is the Arts Programme Director for The Annexe Gallery [in Central Market]” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Chin, Justin.

98 Wounds. San Francisco: Manic D Press, 2011. (121 p.; ISBN 9781933149370, etc.)

Short stories.

“Intertwined poetic short stories” (ref.: Walker).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Debut Fiction.

Author is an American of Chinese heritage, born in Malaysia and brought up in Singapore, who moved to the US to study and live as a young man.

Chin, Justin.

Bite Hard. San Francisco: Manic D Press, 1997. (124 p.; ISBN 9780916397470).

Various genres.

About being a gay Asian American.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Poetry and Small Press.

Chin, Justin.

Gutted. San Francisco: Manic D Press, 2006. (96 p.; ISBN 9781933149073)

Poetry.

Reflections on illness, loss, and grief.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Chin, Justin

Harmless Medicine. San Francisco: Manic D Press, 2001.
(142 p.; ISBN 9780916397722)

Poetry.

Coming out of the generation following the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, this poetry collection “explores illness, travel, contagion, the meaning of home, identity, tainted purity and the bits of life that contain them....” (ref.: Google Books).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Poetry.

Chin, Justin.

Mongrel: Essays, Diatribes, and Pranks. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1999.
(178 p.; ISBN 9780312195137)

Various genres.

Opinion pieces and essays; 21 prose pieces (ref.: amazon.com, Books: Review).

“Cross-section of Chin’s imagination and experiences that calls into question what it means to be a gay Asian-American in San Francisco, the effect your family will always have on you, and the role sexuality plays in your life....”;

“collection that is a combination of confession, tirade, journalism, and practical joke.” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Chua, Lawrence.

Gold by the Inch: A Novel. New York: Grove Press, 1998.
(209 p.; ISBN 9780802116260, etc.)

Novel.

“The story of a young New Yorker of Asian descent who has returned to the country of his birth following a disastrous relationship and his father’s death. In a Bangkok drunk on the nation’s financial miracle...the narrator meets Thong, a young, beautiful male hustler who works at a nightclub” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary). This work also entered at THAILAND heading.

Author was born in Penang, Malaysia, in 1966 and lives in the United States.

Orang macam kita [People Like Us]. Azwan Ismail and Diana Dirani, suntingan [eds.].
Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: Matahari Books, 2010.
(226 p.; ISBN 9789834484569)

In Malay.

Anthology.

“The first Malay-language anthology of queer writing features 25 stories and essays....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books). The amazon.com entry also gives the “full line-up”, that is a table of contents, noting author/title of works included.

Note also review at amazon.com entry, by Hafidz Baharom, offering some comparisons between this title and the Body 2 Body anthology listed above.

SINGAPORE

Note 1: Works in this section are in **English, unless otherwise noted.**

Note 2: At the **MALAYSIA** heading, see some works of **Justin Chin** (1969-2015), an American of Chinese heritage, born in Malaysia and brought up in Singapore, and who moved to the US to study and live as a young man.

Note 3: Many novels, short stories, poetry collections, and (unpublished?) plays are presented in the Wikipedia article titled: **LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature** [viewed January 3, 2020]. Works and annotation quotations from that piece are given with reference to the article, as appropriate. See that article for additional works not listed below, including poetry collections of Cyril Wong.

GASPP: A Gay Anthology of Singaporean Poetry and Prose. Edited by Yi-Sheng Ng.
Singapore: The Literary Centre, 2010.
(223 p.; ISBN 9789810868086)

In English; some works in original Chinese and Malay with English translations (OCLC WorldCat record note).
Anthology.

Goh, Nathan.

Blame It on the Raging Hormones.

Singapore: Wham Bam, 2010; Maple Shade, NJ [USA]: Lethe Press, 2011.
(195 p.; ISBN 9789810864057 (Wham Bam), 9781590211151 (Lethe))

Novel.

“...coming-of-age memoir of a...Singaporean gay man, written in the form of an online journal...” Nicky tries to find love and validation in the wrong places, getting into a world of sex, drugs, and prostitution (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Hahn, Jason.

Asking for Trouble: Tales of Saffy & Amanda.

Singapore: Times Editions – Marshall Cavendish, 2005.
(150 p.; ISBN 9789812610256)

Humour based on author’s “experiences with living with two high-maintenance women, with free advice from his 2 male friends, one gay, the other married” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Hong, Ken.

Tong lei: nan nan zhi jian de qing shiyu ta men de xi nu ai le.

Singapore: Oogachaga Counseling & Support, 2009.
(232 p.; ISBN 9789810836979)

In Chinese.

Short fiction.

“Each story is based on a true account of the lives of gay men in contemporary Singapore....The book is published by Oogachaga..., the publishers of the popular Singapore Queers of the 21st Century (SQ21) [for which see below in this section]....” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Reference presents author name as: **Ang, Ken.**

See OCLC WorldCat record, accession no. 505927322, for author and title in Chinese script.

Jeyaretnam, Philip.

Abraham's Promise: A Novel.

Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press; Singapore: Times Books Int'l, 1995;
Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2010.

(178 p.; ISBN 9780824817695 (Hawai'i), 9789812045157 (Times), etc.)

Novel.

“...a story of a father's rejection of and then coming to terms with his son's homosexuality. This is no exploration of the world of a gay man, for the homosexual character hardly speaks. Its intellectual touchstone is the political culture of post-colonial Singapore where many feel marginalised with little promise of respite in personal or professional life” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Koh, Andrew.

Glass Cathedral

Singapore: EPB Publishers, 1995; Epigram Books, 2011.

(116 p; ISBN 9789971044497 (EPB), ISBN 9789810899325 (Epigram))

Novella.

(ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Commendation Award, Singapore Literature Prize, 1994.

Koh, Buck Song.

Bugis Street: The Novel. In collaboration with Tan Hwee Hua.

Singapore: Pacific Theatricals, 1994.

(164 p.; ISBN 9789810052034)

Novel.

“...freely adapted from Bugis Street, the musical....”

(OCLC WorldCat record Note).

Also mentioned in Wikipedia article: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature.

Koh, Jee Leong.

Steep Tea. Manchester [UK]: Carcanet Press, 2015.

(71 p.; ISBN 9781847772275)

Poetry.

“...poems share many of the harsh and enriching circumstances that shape the imagination of a postcolonial queer writer....” (ref.: Google Books Hong Kong website).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Author, born in Singapore, lives in New York City.

Kwa, Lydia.

This Place Called Absence: A Novel. Winnipeg [Canada]: Turnstone Press, 2000. (218 p.; ISBN 9780888012432)

Novel.

Kwa’s debut novel “interweaves the lives of four women, spanning time between the early twentieth century and modern day”. Wu Lan, a psychologist who grew up in Singapore and is now living in Vancouver, and her mother in Singapore, try to come to terms with Wu Lan’s father’s suicide. The other two women, from the past, who worked in Singapore brothels, “[m]eeting by chance,... give each other love, strength and hope as they help each other to survive their brutal circumstances....” (OCLC WorldCat Summary in record no. 44991192).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Fiction.

Author is Singaporean-Canadian, born in Singapore in 1959, coming to Canada in 1980.

Lee, Johann S.

Peculiar Chris. Singapore: Cannon International, 1992 (reprinted 2008). (228 p.; ISBN 9789810035570)

Novel.

“...the only true ‘coming-out novel’ written from a Singaporean point of view so far. Describes a young athlete and national serviceman’s angst-filled struggles with boyfriends, discriminatory institutions and death....Described by The Straits Times in 2008 as a ‘cult classic’” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Lee, Johann S.

Quiet Time. Singapore: Cannon International, 2008. (338 p.; ISBN 9789810817039)

Novel.

“...concluding part of Lee’s Singaporean queer triptych which began with Peculiar Chris. About a gay man’s paternal instincts and gay activism, set against the civil rights events of 2007....” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

See also Lee’s To Know Where I’m Coming From.

Lee, Johann S.

To Know Where I'm Coming From. Singapore: Cannon International, 2007.
(281 p.; ISBN 9789810594725)

Novel.

Author's "indirect sequel to Peculiar Chris. About a gay emigrant returning to his homeland to heal from a broken heart." Reference notes review ratings and review quotation (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

See also Lee's Quiet Time.

Leo, David.

Different Strokes. Singapore: Pagesetters Services, 1993.
(95 p.; ISBN 9789810047559)

Novella.

Reporter "has to interview the first person to be diagnosed with AIDS and write a 'newsy' story. It was the beginning of a lesson on the social attitudes towards AIDS and its victims in this part of the world.... [T]his novella explores two victims' pain and angst as well as the dilemmas faced by those who encounter them. The writer makes no attempt to moralise...." (ref.: Goodreads).

Although the author wrote a homophobic story elsewhere [see Short Stories subsection of reference article, at "Drum"], "this book is based on an objective journalist's experience when he interviewed a gay AIDS patient" (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Lim, Elisha.

100 Crushes. Toronto: Koyama Press, 2014.
(92 p.; ISBN 9781927668061)

Graphic novel.

"...compiles five years of queer comics by Elisha Lim....It's an absorbing document that travels through Toronto, Berlin, Singapore and beyond in the form of interviews, memoirs, and gossip from an international queer vanguard" (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBT Graphic Novel.

Author is Singaporean-Canadian, born in Toronto.

Low, Trisha.

Socialist Realism. Minneapolis, MN; Brooklyn, NY: Coffee House Press, 2019.
(166 p.; ISBN 9781566895514)

Biography.

"As she recovers from a breakup with a lover..., Trisha Low..., a young queer woman from a Singaporean family, must travel between the American coasts and experience debasement both routine...and extraordinary...in order to come to terms with the end of her relationship and the beginning of the

next chapter of her adult life” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Moo, Joash.

Sisterhood: New Moons in San Francisco.

Singapore: Times Books International, 1993.

(173 p.; ISBN 9789812043689)

Novel.

Refs.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature, under New Moon over... ;
OCLC WorldCat record.

Ng, Yi-Sheng.

A Book of Hims. Singapore: Math Paper Press, 2017.

(89 p.; ISBN 9789811152849)

Poems in English, with some Chinese characters.

Ng, Yi-Sheng.

Last Boy. Singapore: Firstfruits Publications, 2006.

(66 p.; ISBN 9789810563097)

Poetry.

“...contains many lyrical poems celebrating and reflecting on gay love and
sexuality” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Sa’at, Alfian.

Corridor: 12 Short Stories. 2nd ed.; Singapore: Ethos Books, 2015.

(167 p.; ISBN 9789810779931)

Short stories.

Collection carries “several short stories with GLBT themes”;
reference article notes “Pillow” (intergenerational relationship); “Cubicle”
(intimacy of lesbian students in a public toilet) , “Bugis” (with a
flamboyant transvestite), and “Disco” (older man discovering gay clubs).

1998 Singapore Literature Prize Commendation.

(ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Published earlier: Singapore: Raffles, 1999.

Sabariah.

Butch & Girl Talk. Singapore: VJ Times, 2002.

(172 p.; ISBN 9789812210494)

Short stories.

“...collection of short narrative pieces exclusively about the experiences of
young lesbian and bisexual women (and FTM men) in Singapore. It is
unclear if the stories are based on the experiences of actual women or

[are] primarily fictional....[T]he book is no longer widely available”
(refs.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature; OCLC WorldCat).

SQ21: Singapore Queers in the 21st Century. Edited by Yi-Sheng Ng and Jason Wee.
Singapore: Math Paper Press, by Books Actually, 2017.
(185 p.; ISBN 9789811151095, etc.)

Biography/Anthology.

“...15 individuals... – a mother of gay sons, a government scholar, a poly student, and a hearing impaired man among others – give powerful accounts of their lives. Accompanied by Alphonsus Lee’s photography, SQ21 shows an unabashed straightforward honesty and celebrates the lives of these ordinary Singaporeans....” (ref.: Goodreads).

One Goodreads.com reviewer further notes: “This book is a really lovely compilation of stories from queer Singaporeans. They are honest, personal, distinctly & lovably Singaporean....”

Tan, Jolene.

A Certain Exposure. Singapore: Epigram Books, 2014.
(213 p.; ISBN 9789810788285)

Novel.

“...sensitive coming-of-age tale about a gay government scholar...who commits suicide after being bullied” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Tan, Marylyn.

Gaze Back. Singapore: Ethos Books, 2018.
(87 p.; ISBN 9789811190803)

Poetry.

“Her first volume of poetry...is the lesbo Singaporean trans-genre witch grimoire you never knew you needed” (singaporewritersfestival.com website, Authors & Speakers, Marilyn Tan [viewed Dec. 2019]).

Teo, Hsu-Ming.

Behind the Moon. Sydney, Australia: Allen & Unwin, 2005 (later published: New York: Soho Press, 2007).
(372 p.; ISBN 9781741142433 (Allen), 9781569474402 (Soho)).

Novel.

“...beautifully crafted story of immigrant alienation, splintered families and the saving grace of friendship. In the suburbs of Sydney, Tien Ho, Nigel ‘Gibbs’ Gibson and Justin Cheng have been friends since childhood,... though culturally they couldn’t be more dissimilar....Justin [the son of affluent Singaporeans] is gay and unable to reconcile his sexuality with the

expectations of his family....” (Kirkus Reviews, November 1, 2006 issue).
Author is an academic at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Wee, Edmund.

The Narcissist.

Singapore: Times Editions, 2004.

(160 p.; ISBN 9789812328199)

Novel.

“...the first novel by Singaporean journalist Edmund Wee. Set in Paris and London, the novel follows the trail of a young, callow homosexual narrator who gradually discovers the darker side of men....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).
Also noted in Wikipedia article: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature.

Wong, Cyril.

The Last Lesson of Mrs. de Souza. Singapore: Epigram Books, 2013.

(147 p.; ISBN 9789810762322, etc.)

Novel.

“...about a student coming out to a teacher, with disastrous consequences”
(ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Wong, Cyril

Let Me Tell You Something about That Night: Strange Tales.

2nd ed.; Singapore: Ethos Books, 2015.

(137 p.; ISBN 9789810733872)

Short stories.

Originally published: Yarraville, Vic [Australia]: Transit Lounge, 2009.

“...collection of surreal, urban to mythical fairy tales dealing with issues of queerness and desire, including a story that puts a gay twist on the Chinese myth about the Dragon King....” (refs.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature and OCLC WorldCat).

Wong, Cyril.

Ten Things My Father Never Taught Me and Other Stories.

Singapore: Epigram Books, 2014.

(180 p.; ISBN 9789814615082, etc.)

Short stories.

“...fictional and autobiographical stories about queer characters and growing up gay” (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Yang, J. Y.

The Descent of Monsters. New York: Tor, 2018.

(169 p.; ISBN 9781250165855)

Novel.

One volume of author's "Tensorate" series.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBTQ Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror.

Author is "a Singaporean writer of English-language speculative fiction. Yang is non-binary and queer...." (ref.: Wikipedia: JY Yang [viewed Dec. 4, 2019])

Yi, Jon.

What Are You Doing in My Undies? Singapore: Word Press, 2002.

(147 p.; ISBN 9789810456016)

Novel.

"...about a man's...transvestism" (ref.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature).

Yu, Ovidia.

The Mouse Marathon. Singapore: Times Books International, 1993.

(190 p; ISBN 9789812044631)

Novel.

Refs.: LGBT Topics in Singaporean Literature; OCLC WorldCat record.

INDONESIA

Introduction

Entries in this section include the few works discovered in English translation and some of the Indonesian-language titles noted in a Hendri Yulius review essay.

The 2016 essay by Hendri Yulius on Indonesian LGBT publications (see Sources) was invaluable in retrieving works for the list. (Hendri Yulius was a University of Sydney master's degree student at the time of the essay). The user interested in Indonesian-language LGBT books should read his piece, available online. The following quotations provide some insights into the Indonesian LGBTQ publishing situation up to the date of the review.

Hendri Yulius observes that “[s]ince the mid-2000s, there has been a noticeable increase in books with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) themes and characters, mostly in the form of ‘pop novels’”. In the 1990s, prominent and popular writers, Seno Gumira Ajidarma, Mira W and Ayu Utami, portrayed homosexual characters and characters with non-normative gender and sexuality but it was the success of Andrei Aksana’s Lelaki Terindah [see list below],...in 2004, that encouraged more young writers to follow his path and write ‘gay romance’....” He notes works of Andy Stevenio, Herlinatiens, Alberthiene Endah, Clara Ng, and Andy Lotex, as well as Is Mujiarso [their Indonesian-language titles given below], and gives a few other names (see the essay).

The author notes that many works “represent only upper-middle class and literate LGBT Indonesians who are familiar with Western pop-culture and [are] constantly seeking acceptance of their sexual identities.” But, he adds, “[d]espite the increasing connection between cosmopolitanism and modern gay characters in Indonesian literature, some independent fiction writers, mostly coming from within grassroots community groups, actively challenge these portrayals,” and notes Srean’s work, and the Suara Kita organization’s Ibuku Lelaki anthology [listed below].

The essay points out that “it is still difficult to find Indonesian gay fiction in English.” Listed, however, are **some English-language works by Indonesians** – Menagerie 7 and Tuanakotta (given by Hendri Yulius); and Madasari, Lestari, and Pasaribu works. But included with these are several citations to Indonesian-language works (with translations of their **titles** into English), as noted in the article.

Aksana, Andrei.

Lelaki terindah [The Most Beautiful Man].

Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2004.

(219 p.; ISBN 9789792208153)

In Indonesian.

Two men meet accidentally and fall in love.

“In this novel, Aksana...bridged the gap between serious, highbrow literature and popular culture....” (ref: Hendri Yulius).

Endah, Alberthiene.

Dicintai Jo [Loved by Jo].

Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2012 (first published 2006).

(344 p.; ISBN 9789792280845, etc.)

In Indonesian.

Note entry at Goodreads.com [viewed Dec. 2019].

Author is a biographer, novelist and journalist, known for her in-depth biographies of Indonesian celebrities

Fa [pseudonym].

Macho Man Ngomong Cong...!!! [Macho Man Screams Cong].

[Indonesia?]: FoU Media, 2007.

In Indonesian.

Popular gay blog made into a book, published by the now-defunct publisher

(ref.: Hendri Yulius). Listed on Goodreads.com website [viewed Dec. 2019].

Herlinatiens.

Garis Tepi Seorang Lesbian [The Outline of a Lesbian].

[Yogyakarta?]: Galang Press Group, 2003.

(ISBN 9789799341686)

In Indonesian.

A lesbian is discriminated against by her culture. “The novel made Herlinatiens... a champion of the gay community... [and] caused strong controversy in Indonesia....”

Author born Herlina Tien Suhesti in 1982 (ref.: Wikipedia: Herlinatiens [viewed Dec. 2019]).

Ibuku Lelaki: Cerita Cinta Melampaui Tubuh. [My Mother is a Man].

[Indonesia]: Suara Kita, 2015.

(155 p.; ISBN 9786027175549)

In Indonesian.

Anthology published by LGBT advocacy organisation, Suara Kita (Our Voice), offering “a wide-ranging representation of LGBT characters imbued with political awareness” (ref.: Hendri Yulius). Noted also at Goodreads.com, with reviews in Indonesian (where author is given as Antok Serean).
Suara Kita website is: www.suarakita.org [viewed Dec. 2019].

Lestari, Dewi.

Supernova: The Knight, the Princess, and the Falling Star. Translated by Harry Aveling. Jakarta: Lontar Foundation, 2010.
(242 p.; ISBN 9789798083839)

In English.

In the early 2000s, the best-selling Supernova series introduced a gay couple in a prominent place in the storyline (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Translation from Indonesian of: Ksatria, Putri, dan Bintang Jatuh

Lotex, Andy.

Bila Hasrat Tlah Usai [If the Desire Has Subsided].
Bekasi: Perlambang Daya Cipta, 2007.
(500 p.)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

Madasari, Okky.

Bound. Translated from Indonesian by Nurhayat Indriyatno Mohamed and Makna Sinatria. Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2014.
(273 p.; ISBN 9786020305349)

In English.

Concerns trans persons.

Translation of: Pasung Jiwa (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2013).

Menagerie 7: Indonesian Short Stories and More. Guest editor: Erza Setyadharma; series editor: John H. McGlynn.
Jakarta: Lontar Foundation, 2009.
(257 p.; ISBN 9789798083747)

In English.

“...collection of LGBT stories and poems,” featuring “an excerpt of Oka Rusmini’s most popular novel Tarian Bumi (Earth Dance), Djenar Maesa Ayu’s SMS and Gadis Arivia’s In the Republic of Morality.”
The collection “features both queer and non-queer authors” (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Ng, Clara.

Gerhana Kembar [The Twin Eclipses].

Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2015 (first published 2007).

(368 p.; ISBN 9786020318783)

In Indonesian.

Oetomo, Dédé.

Memberi Suara Pada Yang Bisu [Giving Voice to the Silenced].

Yogyakarta: Galang Press Yogyakarta, 2001.

(348 p.; ISBN 9799341205)

In Indonesian.

“[C]ollection of personal essays and reflections...depicting his journey to embracing his gay identity and activism beginning in the 1980s”

(ref.: Hendri Yulius)

Pasaribu, Norman Erikson.

Sergius Seeks Bacchus. Translated from Indonesian by Tiffany Tsao.

London: Tilted Axis Press, 2019.

(85 p.; ISBN 9781911284239)

In English.

Poetry.

“...heartbreaking and humorous rumination on what it means to be in a minority in terms of sexuality, ethnicity, and religion” (ref.: Coolidge [see Sources]).

Author is openly gay, of Bataknese descent and Christian background.

Rahardjo, Yonathan.

Taman Api [The Fire Garden].

Jakarta: Pustaka Alvabet, 2011.

(201 p.; ISBN 9786029193015)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

Concerns trans persons.

Winner of 2006 Jakarta Arts Council Novel Competition.

Note further information on Goodreads.com website in Indonesian, with reviews.

Rahasia Bulan: Kumpulan Cerita Pendek [The Secret of the Moon].

Collected and edited by Is Mujiarso.

[Jakarta?]: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2006.

(228 p.; ISBN 9789792217889)

In Indonesian.

Anthology of LGBT-themed short stories.

Editor realized that “LGBT themes had started becoming popular with the broader Indonesian literary scene” (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Note listing on Goodreads.com, with reviews [viewed Dec. 2019].

Serean, Antok.

Ganteng [Handsome].

[Indonesia?]: published independently, print-on-demand, 2010.

In Indonesian.

Short stories.

Ten stories dealing with “gay characters who are proud of their sexuality and openly challenge the societal heteronormative pressures” (ref.: HendriYulius).

Stevenio, Andy.

Cinta tak Berkelamin [Love Has No Genitalia].

[Indonesia?]: Hi-Fest Production, 2006.

(273 p.; ISBN 9789799983756)

In Indonesian.

Note listing on Goodreads.com website [viewed Dec. 2019].

Stevenio, Andy.

Percintaan di Antara Empat Lelaki [Love between Four Men].

[Indonesia?]: Hi-Fest Production, 2006.

(216 p.; ISBN 9799983711)

In Indonesian.

Note listing on Goodreads.com website [viewed Dec. 2019].

Tuanakotta, Yuska Lutfi.

Gentlemen Prefer Asians: Tales of Gay Indonesians and Green Card Marriages.

Los Angeles: ThreeL Media, 2016.

(222 p.; ISBN 9780996485203)

In English.

Author “interweaves themes of sexuality, national belonging, identity, race, and the story of his personal relationships.” Tuanakotta immigrated to the US and “the story of his friendships with fellow gay Indonesians offers an intimate portrayal of the gay Indonesian’s search for belonging on foreign soil....” (ref.: Hendri Yulius).

Wiriadinata, Bhina.

Aku Manusia, Kamu Bukan Tuhan [I Am Human, You Are Not God].

Jakarta: Penerbit PT Elex Media Komputindo, 2015.

(349 p.; ISBN 9786020256443)

In Indonesian.

Noted on Goodreads.com, with reviews in Indonesian [viewed Dec. 2019].

Yulia, Ida R.

Cermin Tak Pernah Berteriak [The Mirror Never Screams].

Jakarta: PT Elex Media Komputindo, 2015.

(291 p.; ISBN 9786020266404)

In Indonesian.

Novel.

THAILAND

The brief list for this section comprises English-language titles, either originally in English or in English translation from Thai. The Thai-language works noted in the introductory remarks below are not duplicated on the list.

There have been, for a variety of reasons, few translations of Thai literary voices into English (see, e.g., Max Crosbie-Jones, “Found in Translation: Thai Literature Reaches West,” Nikkei Asian Review, July 21, 2019 (online)).

In the matter of LGBTQ Thai literature, the academic expert on Thailand, Peter A. Jackson [see two of his works in the following list] has made several observations in the “Thailand, Literature” entry in Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture. He has noted the following:

There were in classical Thai literature only occasional references to queer sexualities;

In the 19th century, the hero of the poem Inao “engages in amorous liaisons with both men and women; the poet Sunthorn Phu “includes a number of dismissive references to female homoeroticism”; and the extended poem Morm Pet Sawan (Lady Heavenly Duck) “pokes fun at the love affair” between two court ladies-in-waiting and “was the first literary work to place same-sex eroticism at the centre of the narrative”;

In 1913, the Thai king commissioned a narrative poem, IlatKham-chan, in which a king from Hindu mythology changes sex;

Only after World War II did queer themes begin appearing, with stories about kathoey (male transvestites) being presented roughly between 1947 and the late 1960s by P. Intharapalit and novels on gay issues (that were “rarely sympathetic”) by Kritsana Asoksin;

In roughly the 1980s, occasional short story collections became “the first modern literary forms written by self-identified gay authors for a gay readership,” two examples of which were Gay 79 (1979) and Thi-sut Kheu Khwam-wang-plao (The End of Emptiness) (1990); and

Biographies of gay men and kathoeyes appeared in the early 1980s, including work by Pan Bunnak and by Kirati Chana.

Further noted in the Routledge encyclopedia, in the “Asia, Literature” entry by Stephen D. Miller, is that “[r]ecent literary works from Thailand that explore queer life include” a Natee Teerarojjanapongs autobiography (1990) and two gay novels by Wirat Kanokanukhroh (1995-6 and 2002). Miller also mentions that “[v]ery little of this literature has been translated into English”.

Chua, Lawrence.

Gold by the Inch: A Novel. New York: Grove Press, 1998.
(209 p.; ISBN 9780802116260, etc.)

Novel.

“The story of a young New Yorker of Asian descent who has returned to the country of his birth following a disastrous relationship and his father’s death. In a Bangkok drunk on the nation’s financial miracle...the narrator meets Thong, a young, beautiful male hustler who works at a nightclub” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary). This work is also entered at the MALAYSIA heading.

Author was born in Penang, Malaysia, in 1966 and lives in the United States.

The Dove Coos: Gay Experiences by the Men of Thailand. Translated from Thai by Nukul Benchamat, Somboon Inpradith; edited by Eric G. Allyn. Bangkok [etc.]: Bua Luang, 1992.
(134 p.; ISBN 9780942777079)

Anthology.

“The stories in this collection are written by readers of three Thai gay magazines, Midway, Neon, and Weekend men” –p. 8, as quoted in OCLC WorldCat record no. 28926226.

Thai title (two title transliterations noted): Nók’ Kǎo Kǎn or Nokkǎo khan.

NOTE ALSO: The Dove Coos II. Translated by David Jonathan.

Bangkok [etc.]: Floating Lotus/Bua Luang, 1994.

First Queer Voices from Thailand: Uncle Go’s Advice Columns for Gays, Lesbians, and Kathoeys. Edited by Peter A. Jackson. Bangkok: White Lotus, 2017 (and Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2016).
(270 p.; ISBNs 9789747534016 (White Lotus); 9789888083268 (HKU Press))

Anthology.

Thai magazine letters, as early as 1974, to Uncle Go, with his “wild, witty, and wise” responses (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

This is a revised edition of the editor’s earlier work: Dear Uncle Go: Male Homosexuality in Thailand (Bangkok; San Francisco: Bua Luang, 1995).

Jackson, Peter A.

The Intrinsic Quality of Skin. Bangkok; San Francisco: Floating Lotus Books, 1994.
(179 p.; ISBN 9780942777109)

Novel.

“What if you visited another country and discovered you had been living in the wrong skin all your life? This sensuous and thought-provoking novel by Australian author Peter A. Jackson explains the romantic and sensual experiences

of a gay white man in Thailand” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Prabda Yoon.

Moving Parts. Translated from Thai by Mui Poopoksakul.

London: Tilted Axis Press, 2018.

(ISBN 9781911284185, 9781911284178)

Short stories.

The story collection, published in Thai in 2001 as *Suan Ti Kleunwai*, presents an intense, strange, compelling, and wide-ranging view of Bangkok at the turn of the century; “surreal and puncturing....wry and unsettling” (Tilted Axis website).

One story, presented as “Belly Up” in Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018, and about a “transgender woman at the end of her rope,” is the specific reason for including the Prabda Yoon reference in this list.

NEPAL

Pride Climbing Higher: Stories by LGBT People from Nepal. Edited by Chad Frisbie.
Kathmandu, Nepal: Creative Nepal, 2014.
(154 p.)

Short stories.

In English or Nepali. Note that the stories were written in ENGLISH and translated INTO Nepali.

“Twelve autobiographical stories written by LGBT identified people from Nepal” – p. 4 of cover, as quoted in OCLC WorldCat record no. 957696511.
The stories were written in an English creative writing class and later translated into Nepali.

Stories translated and printed in Nepali in 2015 with support from arts journal La.Lit and Norwegian embassy in Nepal (ref.: Goodreads).

The collection is available and can be downloaded in both languages at the Creative Nepal website (www.creative-nepal.com), at the Writing Project index heading [viewed Dec. 2019].

BANGLADESH

Akhtar, Shaheen.

“Snakes, Husbands, Ashalota, and Us.” Translated from Bengali by Shabnam Nadiya.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2012 (Queer Issue III) (online).

Short story.

Islam, Tanwi Nandini.

Bright Lines: A Novel. New York: Penguin Books, 2015.
(296 p.; ISBN 9780143123132)

Novel.

Orphaned after her parents’ murder, Ella travels from Bangladesh to live with her aunt, uncle, and cousin, Charu. One day on returning home from college, she finds Charu’s friend, Maya, asleep in her bedroom. As the girls have a summer of sexual awakening, Uncle Anwar has his own secrets, threatening his 30-year marriage. To keep the family from unravelling, Anwar takes them on a fated trip to Bangladesh to reckon with the past, their extended family, and each other (annotation based on the penguinrandomhouse.com website description).

Finalist for the Edmund White Debut Fiction Award.

Author is American-born.

SRI LANKA

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi.

Bodymap: Poems. Toronto: Mawenzi House Publishers, 2015.
(112 p.; ISBN 9781927494509)

Poetry.

“...examine[s] disability...[through] a queer femme-of-colour lens”
(ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Author “is a queer disabled femme writer, organizer, performance artist and educator of Burgher/Tamil Sri Lankan and Irish/Roma ascent [sic]” (from brownstargirl.org website).

She is a Toronto- and Oakland, California-based poet, writer, educator and social activist (Wikipedia).

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi.

Dirty River: A Queer Femme of Color Dreaming Her Way Home.
Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2015.
(237 p.; ISBN 9781551526003)

Biography.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Memoir/Biography.

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi.

Love Cake: Poems.
Toronto: TSAR Publications, 2011.
(97 p.; ISBN 9781894770699)

Poetry.

“[E]xplores how queer people of color resist and transform violence through love and desire” (ref.: Google Books).

Selvadurai, Shyam.

Cinnamon Gardens. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1998.
(389 p.; ISBN 9780771079559, etc.)

Novel.

One of the central characters, Balendran, struggles with his homosexuality and the social demands of tradition and family/marriage.

This work has been translated into other languages, including Sinhalese [see OCLC WorldCat catalog records].

Sinhalese title/imprint (transliterated): Kurinduvattē guru yuvatiya (Nugēgoda: Sarasavi Prakāśakayo, 2012).

Author is Sri Lankan-Canadian.

Selvadurai, Shyam.

Funny Boy. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1994.
(316 p.; ISBN 9780771079504, etc.)

Novel.

Coming-of-age of a gay Sri Lankan man.

Work has been translated into various languages, including Sinhalese [see OCLC
WorldCat catalog records]

Sinhalese title/imprint (transliterated): Amutu ilandāriya (Kōlamba [Colombo]:
Sarasavi Prakāśakayo, 2002).

Selvadurai, Shyam.

The Hungry Ghosts. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2011.
(372 p.; ISBN 9780385670661)

Novel.

Shivan Rassiah, a gay man living in Canada, prepares to return to Sri Lanka
to bring his grandmother to Canada. As he prepares to leave, he is haunted by
imagined ghosts.

Selvadurai, Shyam.

Swimming in the Monsoon Sea. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2005.
(274 p.; ISBN 9780887767357)

Novel.

Fourteen-year-old Amrith is leading an uneventful life in 1980 Sri Lanka
when his male cousin arrives from Canada. Amrith's ordered life is
disrupted as he finds himself falling in love. The author's first young adult
novel explores first love.

Sindu, S. J.

Marriage of a Thousand Lies: A Novel. New York: Soho Press, 2017.
(288 p.; ISBN 9781616957902, etc.)

Novel.

"[D]ebut novel pulls back the curtain on a 'marriage of convenience'

Lucky, a lesbian, is married to Krishna, a gay man....[The] decision [to
marry] they've taken to appease their Sri Lankan-American families...." ;

"Sidhu brilliantly explores how queer women are viewed and treated based
on their presentation of femininity" (ref.: Gill [see Sources]).

Stonewall Awards: Literature Honor Book.

Author is an American born in Sri Lanka (Wikipedia: S.J. Sindu article)

INDIA

Introduction

Works on the alphabetical **list** for this section are more recent publications, almost all from the 21st century. (A very few titles are from the 1990s, and one work, Kamala Das's My Story, is a 1970s autobiography, translated from Malayalam, that "shocked the literary world" regarding lesbian sexuality and has had various editions and imprints). The list items are in original English or in English translation.

The additional titles noted in the **Introduction** are in a variety of Indian languages (or in English). They are older titles, primarily from the 1940s through the 1980s. There is very little repetition on the alphabetical list of titles noted in the Introduction.

The introductory notes draw substantially, in quotation or paraphrase, on Ruth Vanita's overview essay, "India, Literature," from Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture. Several quotations from an article by Ruchi Kuman give some updating observations for the period following the repeal of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code regarding consensual adult gay sex. (See full references in Sources).

Vanita observes that homosexual relationships have been written about in India for over two thousand years. (See her Same-sex Love in India, in the list below). She notes, though, that the British criminalized homosexuality in the mid-nineteenth century and "inculcated homophobia among educated Indians," with the result that "homophobia, formerly muted, became dominant in Indian literature." The Urdu ghazal (love lyrics), for example, which celebrated male-male love was "heterosexualized," and new forms, such as the novel, "tended to depict male homosexuality as sordid and diseased, and female homosexuality as a premarital phase or the resort of women deprived of men...."

Examples of early modern works which adopted this portrayal of a perverted world were, in the case of male homosexuality, Mohammed Basheer's 1947 Malayalam-language novel Shabdangal [Voices] and Kamleshwar's 1951 Hindi novel Ek Sadak Sattavan Galiyan [The Street with Fifty-seven Lanes]. The presentation of lesbianism as a premarital schoolgirl phase was presented in Urdu work of Ismat Chughtai, Hindi writing of Shobhana Siddique, and Malayalam work of Kamala Das.

Vanita notes also the writer Aubrey Menen, who, "himself gay, wrote several extravagantly imaginative English novels with homoerotic themes and characters" in the period from the 1940s to the 1970s.

One earlier work [see list below] which "shocked the literary world" with a depiction of lesbian sex was Kamala Das's 1976 fictionalized autobiography in English, My Story. V. T. Nandakumar's 1974 Malayalam-language novel, Rantu penkuttikal [Two Girls] is also noted.

Among authors producing major works in the 1980s were:

Suniti Namjoshi, who “is among the earliest and most gifted lesbian writers.” Several later imprints of her works are included in the list of titles below, but also to be noted are some earlier titles: Feminist Fables (1981) and The Blue Donkey Fables (1988), now labelled classics; and the novels Conversations of Cow (1985) and Mothers of Maya Diip (1989), which “contribute, among other things, to an ongoing meditation on what it means to be an Indian lesbian”;

and

Vikram Seth, whose “tour de force” The Golden Gate (1986), and later novels A Suitable Boy (1993) and An Equal Music (1999), “all have gay characters and subplots”.

Vijaydan Detha, who wrote in Rajasthani, is noted for a story, Dohri Joon [A Double Life], published in Hindi in 1989, which “adapts premodern Indian tropes such as the mistaken marriage and the miraculous sex change to envision a utopian lesbian future.”

Much lesbian and gay writing appeared in the gay magazines founded at about this time: Trikone (1986) and Bombay Dost (1990). At that time as well, in the 1990s, “it became increasingly futile to try to distinguish Indian writers from writers of Indian origin who live abroad, as many writers now spend time and publish both in India and abroad or migrate to the West, while others are of mixed Indian and foreign origin.”

Vanita notes a “plethora of gay novels in the 1990s,” of which “[o]ne of the earliest” was Leslie de Noronha’s The Dew Drop Inn (1994) [which has been added to the list below]. Other gay writers in English are R. Raj Rao [represented on the list with a more recently authored work and also as a translator of the Tripathi entry] and P. Parivaraj [see list].

Noted also are Bhupen Khakhar (a writer of “highly acclaimed short stories in Gujarati”); Mahesh Dattani (author of a “series of award-winning plays in English, several on gay themes”); and Firdaus Kanga [see Kanga entry on list below].

The Supreme Court of India ruled in September 2018 to strike down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that had been introduced in British colonial times, in 1861, in so far as that Section 377 applies to consensual adult homosexual sex.

Post-Section 377, Ruchi Kumar, in an October 2019 article (see Sources), briefly looks back, noting that “[t]he history of queer literature in Indian is a complicated one. While ancient texts like the Kama Sutra demonstrate and advocate for all kinds of desires for all kinds of people, there was always a certain degree of moral ambiguity in ancient India over the status of queer or homosexual people. Additionally, Britain’s 250-year colonial rule codified this in the country’s penal

code [of the 1860s]....” About recent matters, he observes that, in the wake of Section 377 being struck down, “the community is now fighting a...battle to change social perspectives,” one such struggle being “in the publishing industry, where there has been a dearth of characters and books that reflect the realities of Indian queer people.”

Readers of various Indian languages have access to works not available in English (and not on the list below). Some titles have already been noted earlier in this Introduction. Some more recent writers references to whose works have been encountered are:

Gopi Shankar Madurai [Maraikappatta Pakkangal (Hidden Pages)], writing in Tamil about gender variants and the LGBTQIA community;

Puliyur Murugesan [Tamil short story, “Naan Yen Migai Alangaram Seithu Kolkiren?” [“Why Do I Overreach Myself?”], about a transgender forced marriage, in the collection Balachandran Enra Peyarum Ennakundu [various transliterations seen; English title: I Have Another Name, Balachandran];

and

Kalki Subramaniam, who published a collection of 25 Tamil poems, Kuri Aruthean (Vikatan Publications, 2015).

Bindumadhav Khire, a Marathi-language writer, has works possibly relevant to the list. Khire’s works seem only to be available in Marathi or Hindi (note OCLC WorldCat; compiler is not quite clear about the nature [fiction or nonfiction] of those works).

Murugesan, and also Perumal Murugan [Madhorubagan (this work translated into English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan under title: One Part Woman)], have been reported to have been threatened over of their writings (see various references, including 2015 online postings by Firstpost and by Scroll.in).

There are probably other names that could be added here.

Adiga, Aravind.

Selection Day: A Novel. New York: Scribner, 2017.
(289 p.; ISBN 9781501150838)

Novel.

“Manjunath Kumar is fourteen and living in a slum in Mumbai. He knows he is good at cricket...[b]ut there are many other things about himself that he doesn’t know....And when Manju meets...a mysterious Muslim boy privileged and confident in all the ways Manju is not, he is forced to come to terms with who he really is” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author is of Indian birth and a citizen of Australia; he won the Man Booker Prize, 2008, for an earlier work

AIDS Sutra: Untold Stories from India. By various authors.

New York: Anchor Books, 2008.
(334 p.; ISBN 9780307454720)

Anthology.

“Some of India’s best-known writers go on the road to tell the human stories” behind HIV and AIDS in India; Includes work by, e.g., Kiran Desai, Salman Rushdie, and Vikram Seth. The writers “travel the country to talk to housewives, vigilantes, gay men living double lives, police, and sex workers” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Ali, Kazim.

Inquisition. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2018.
(90 p.; ISBN 9780819577702)

Poetry.

“Queer, Muslim, American Kazim Ali has always navigated intersections and interstices...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Author is of Indian descent, born in the UK and raised in Canada and the US.

Arora, Bhaavna.

Love Bi the Way. Gurgaon, Haryana, India: Penguin Books, 2016.
(239 p.; ISBN 9780143425298)

Novel.

“Rihana, an artist and carefree spirit, and Zara, a business woman who is careful and methodical, build...friendship...that leads to love. The story becomes more complex when the men in their lives infuse more turmoil and love into their journeys” (ref.: Arora [see Sources]).

Chandra, Vikram.

“Artha.” In Love and Longing in Bombay.

New Delhi: Penguin Books; London: Faber and Faber, 1997.
(265 p.; ISBN 9780140265729, etc.)

Short story.

A Muslim man searches for his Hindu lover.

This story is part of an award-winning collection which won a Commonwealth Writers prize.

Author is an Indian-American, born in India.

Close, Too Close: The Tranquebar Book of Queer Erotica. Edited by Meenu and Shruti.

Chennai, India: Tranquebar Press, 2012.

(216 p.; ISBN 9789381626153)

Anthology.

“Pleasure, desire, bondage; intimacy, affection, sheer revelry; fear, uncertainty, discomfort [--] the myriad expressions of the erotic are revealed in...the first South Asian anthology of its sort. In this path-breaking entry into both the queer literature and erotica genres, fifteen writers and artists from across the subcontinent (and beyond) freely explore...genders and sexualities....”

(OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Includes also people with Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan connections.

Cunha, Nisha da.

“La Loire noire.” In Set My Heart in Aspic.

New Delhi: HarperCollins Publishers India, 1997.

(185 p.; ISBN 9788172232832)

Short story.

The grief of a man over the death of his lover from AIDS.

Das, Ansh [Das, Anshuman].

Always Forever.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2012.

(282 p.; ISBN 9789881554284)

Biography/Memoir.

“...memoir that opens on the sidelines of the glamorous Mr. Gay World event, flies high on the wings of love, crawls through the depths of death and rises again with a hope for the future” (from Tongzhi Literary Group [Hong Kong] website)

Book **available in English or Chinese.**

Chinese pinyin transliteration of title: Yi zhi dao yong yuan (Signal 8 Press).

Author is from India and lives in Hong Kong (anshdas.com website)

This title is also listed in the CHINA section.

Das, Ansh [Das, Anshuman].

The Memory of a Face.

Hong Kong: Signal 8 Press, 2011.

(433 p.)

Novel.

“What is love? Is it the craving to be with him or is it the realization that you should let him go? Is it about telling him how he makes you feel or is it about suffering in silence?....” (from author website)

Set in Hong Kong/China.

English-language Kindle edition noted on amazon.com, Books.

Book available in English or Chinese.

Chinese pinyin transliterated title: Ji de na rong yan (Signal 8 Press, 2014).

Chinese edition ebook also noted on Goodreads.com website, published by Smashwords, 2014 (ISBN 9789881219787).

Author is from India and lives in Hong Kong (anshdas.com website)

This title is also listed in the CHINA section.

Das, Indra.

The Devourers. Gurgaon, Haryana, India: Penguin; New York: Del Rey, 2015.
(ca. 300 p.; ISBN 9781101967515 (Del Rey))

Novel.

“[S]peculative novel...gruesome, strange, primal, fantastical and stunningly imagined....”; “Das plays masterfully with the idea of queerness – gay sex and love stories, yes, but more profoundly the inherent fluidity of sexual identity and gender” (ref.: Gill [see Sources]).

Das, Kamala [Kamalā Surayya].

My Story. Translated from Malayalam by the author.

New Delhi: Sterling, 1976 (and later editions; see OCLC WorldCat).
(231 p.; 9780856551734)

Autobiography (also noted as “fictionalized autobiography”).

“First published in Malayalam in 1973, My Story, Kamala Das’s sensational autobiography, shocked readers with its total disregard of mindless conventions and its fearless articulation of a subject still considered taboo....”

(OCLC WorldCat Summary in record of a new edition (Noida: DC Books, 2009).

Originally published in Malayalam under title: Ente Katha.

Author name also noted as: Madhavikutty.

Noted by Ruth Vanita (see above in Introduction of this section) as having shocked the literary world with its depiction of lesbian sex.

Dattani, Mahesh.

“Seven Steps around the Fire.” In Collected Plays. [vol. 1].

New Delhi; New York: Penguin Books, 2000.

Drama.

Concerns oppression of the hijra community.

Note OCLC WorldCat record no. 989975774 for v. 1 with Table of Contents.

Dawesar, Abha.

Babyji: A Novel. New York: Anchor Books, 2004.

(356 p.; ISBN 9781400034567)

Novel.

“...story of Anamika Sharma, a spirited student growing up in Delhi. At school she is an ace at quantum physics....Before long she has seduced an elegant older divorcée and the family servant, and has caught the eye of a classmate coveted by all the boys....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Stonewall Book Awards: Literature winner.

Lambda Literature Awards winner for Lesbian Fiction.

De Noronha, Leslie.

The Dew Drop Inn. Calcutta [India]: Writers Workshop, 1994.

(297 p.; ISBN 9788171897308, etc.)

Novel.

Author of Goan origin, and was a medical doctor and music critic (Wikipedia).

The critic Peter Nazareth is quoted (in Wikipedia: Leslie de Noronha entry, from a World Literature Today review) as noting that the book “is a sequel to The Mango and the Tamarind Tree: Raoul in the first novel gives up his lover...because of pressure by his mother. In the sequel, Raoul regrets having given her up and he has now become gay – there are explicit descriptions of the gay scene in Bombay....” Wikipedia article notes also that “[s]ome critics suggest that Raoul’s story parallels the author’s”.

Deen, Mashuq Mushtaq.

Draw the Circle. New York: Dramatists Play Service, 2018.

(72 p.; ISBN 9780822237785)

Drama.

“...hilarious and deeply moving story of [a] conservative Muslim mother at her wits’ end, a Muslim father who likes to tell jokes, and a queer American woman trying to make a good impression on her Indian in-laws....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for LGBTQ Drama.

Dhalla, Ghalib Shiraz.

Ode to Lata: A Novel. Los Angeles: Really Great Books, 2002.

(293 p.; ISBN 9781893329133)

Novel.

“Ali, banker by day and denizen of LA’s clubs at night, has left behind a tempestuous Kenyan childhood with an overprotective mother who raised him on a diet of Hindi movies, and an emotionally abusive bisexual lover.... Ali is lost in an obsession for Richard, his ideal of beauty....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Dhalla, Ghalib Shiraz.

The Two Krishnas: A Novel. Los Angeles: Alyson, 2010; New York: Magnus Books, 2011.
(338 p.; ISBN 9781593501297 (Alyson), 9781936833009 (Magnus)).

Novel.

“Indian wife and mother living in Los Angeles feels betrayed when her Hindu banker husband falls in love with a young Muslim man” (ref.: Walker).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Fiction.

NOTE: this novel apparently also known by title The Exiles (ref.: Oh), with imprints New Delhi: HarperCollins Publishers India, 2011; and Los Angeles: Final Word Books, 2014.

Doctor, Farzana.

All Inclusive. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2015.
(294 p.; ISBN 9781459731813, etc.)

Novel.

Ameera works at a Mexican resort, where she also secretly enjoys the sexual swingers’ life. She is also haunted by why her father, Azeez, abandoned her.
Author born in Zambia to Dawoodi Bohra Muslim expatriate parents from India; she immigrated to Canada with her family in the early 1970s
(Wikipedia article: Farzana Doctor).

Doctor, Farzana.

Six Metres of Pavement: A Novel. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2011.
(340 p.; ISBN 9781554887675)

Novel.

“Ismail Boxwala...struggles to continue living through a divorce, years of heavy drinking, and sex with strangers. But his story begins to change after he reluctantly befriends two women” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Lambda Literary Awards winner for Lesbian Fiction.

Doctor, Farzana.

Stealing Nasreen: A Novel. Toronto: Inanna Publications and Education, 2007
(also: New Delhi: Rupa, 2012).
(222 p.; ISBN 9780978223304 (Inanna))

Novel.

“Set in Toronto with back story in Mumbai”; “Nasreen, an Indo-Canadian lesbian and burnt-out psychologist, becomes enmeshed in the lives of Shaffiq and his wife Salma, new immigrants to Canada” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Facing the Mirror: Lesbian Writing in India. Edited by Ashwini Sukthankar.

New Delhi; New York: Penguin Books, 1999.

(409 p.; ISBN 9780140283099)

Anthology.

Fiction, poetry, essays, personal history.

Hajratwala, Minal.

Leaving India: My Family's Journey from Five Villages to Five Continents.

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009.

(ca. 430 p.; ISBN 9780618251292)

Biography.

“Beginning with her great-grandfather's original flight from...India to Fiji, the author follows her ancestors across the twentieth century...across five continents and nine countries....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Bisexual Nonfiction.

Joseph, Anjali.

Saraswati Park. New Delhi: HarperCollins; London: Fourth Estate, 2010.

(261 p.; ISBN 9788172239947 (Harper), 9780007360772 (Fourth Estate))

Novel.

Ashish, a gay 19-year-old college student, lives with his aunt and uncle in their Saraswati Park home in Mumbai. The stories of the various household members include Ashish's affairs with another college student and with his English tutor.

Translated also from English to Malayalam (2013).

Noted as the author's debut novel.

Kanakia, Rahul.

We Are Totally Normal. New York: HarperCollins, 2020.

(ISBN 9780062865816)

Novel (young adult).

Coming-of-age novel; “Nandan's perfect plan for junior [high school] year goes awry after he hooks up with a guy for the first time”

(ref.: harpercollins.com website).

“When Nandan hooks up with his friend Dave..., he isn't sure how he feels about it....The novel deftly negotiates the complexities of teenage friendships and relationships with insight and compassion” (ref.: “10 Books with South

Asian Characters You Should Read in 2020,” by Pooja Makhijani. TeenVogue (teenvogue.com), Books, February 7, 2020 (online) [viewed Feb. 16, 2020].

Author “originally from Washington,...now lives in San Francisco” (ref.: harpercollins.com website).

Kanga, Firdaus.

Trying to Grow. London: Bloomsbury, 1990.
(242 p.; ISBN 9780747505495)

Autobiography.

Semi-autobiographical novel, set in the Parsi community of the Mumbai area, presenting Brit Kotwal, who suffers from brittle bones, in his journey towards sexuality and adulthood.

“...explores the sorrows and joys of being both gay and disabled” (Vanita, “India, Literature,” in Routledge encyclopedia [see Sources])

Note: other imprints, and translation to other languages, including French (Grandir), Italian (Cercando di crescere), and Dutch (Poging tot groei), for which see OCLC WorldCat records.

Kapur, Manju.

A Married Woman. New Delhi: Indiaink, 2002; London: Faber and Faber, 2003.
(310 p.; ISBN 9788186939123 (IndiaInk), 9780571215669 (Faber))

Novel.

“Astha has...a loving husband and affluent surroundings – and yet is consumed with a sense of dissatisfaction. She begins an extra-marital affair with a younger woman, the widow of a political activist...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Kumar, Mala.

The Paths of Marriage: A Novel. Fairfield, CA: Bedazzled Ink Publishing Co., 2014.
(332 p.; ISBN 9781939562586)

Novel.

Three generations of Indian and Indian-American women: Lakshmi marries and immigrates to the US from India to provide a better life for herself and family; she forces her American daughter, Pooja, into an arranged marriage; Pooja’s daughter, Deepa, is an out lesbian.

Kunḍalakara, Sacina.

Cobalt Blue: A Novel. Translated from Marathi by Jerry Pinto.
New York; London: The New Press, 2016.
(228 p.; ISBN 9781620971758)

Novel.

“An enigmatic paying guest becomes the object of affection for siblings Tanay

and Anjuna...”; “[N]ovel about love, desire and heartbreak...told in two halves, from the perspective of both siblings, who are consumed by their adoration of the mysterious man their parents have taken on as a boarder”; “[Q]uietly devastating meditation on the transformative power of love, regardless of sexuality” (ref.: Gill [see Sources])

NOTES:

Author name sometimes presented as: Kundalkar, Sachin.

Marathi title/imprint (in transliteration) is: Kobālṭa blū (Mumbaī: Mauja Prakāśana Grha, 2006 and 2013). OCLC WorldCat lists various editions.

A Lotus of Another Color: An Unfolding of the South Asian Gay and Lesbian Experience. Edited by Rakesh Ratti. Boston: Alyson Publications, 1993. (303 p.; ISBN 9781555831714)

Anthology.

“For the first time, lesbians and gay men from India, Pakistan, and other South Asian countries tell stories of coming out and challenging prejudice”

(ref.: Goodreads).

For the Table of Contents of this volume, see OCLC WorldCat accession no. 26855093, which will also point the user to additional names of possible interest.

Loving Women: Being Lesbian in Unprivileged India. Edited by Maya Sharma. New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2006. (191 p.; ISBN 9788190363419)

Biography.

The stories of ten working class lesbians in North India.

The Man Who Was a Woman and Other Queer Tales from Hindu Lore. [compiled and with commentary by] Devdutt Pattanaik. New York: Routledge, 2012, c2002. (165 p.; ISBN 9781560231806, etc.)

Anthology.

“...a compilation of traditional Hindu stories with a common thread: sexual transformation and gender metamorphosis....In addition to the thought-provoking stories..., you’ll also find: an examination of the universality of queer narratives with examples from Greek lore and Irish folklore[,] a comparison of the Hindu paradigm to the biblical paradigm[,] a look at how Hindu society and Hindu scripture...[respond] to queer sexuality....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Matta, Avinash.

The Tree Outside My Window Is a Drama Queen. [India]: Notion Press, 2017. (94 p.; ISBN 9781947283657)

Poetry.

“Love, heart-break, romance, drama and being queer – this book is a collection of 60 poems...written by a man who loves another man...”
(ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Mehta, Rahul.

Quarantine: Stories. Noida [India]: Random House India, 2010;
New York: HarperPerennial, 2011.
(252 p.; ISBN 9788184001358 (Random); 9780062020451 (Harper))

Short stories.

“...The characters in Quarantine – openly gay Indian-American men – are Westernized in some ways with cosmopolitan views on friendship and sex, while struggling to maintain relationships with their families and cultural traditions...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary)

Merchant, Hoshang.

Forbidden Sex, Forbidden Texts: New India's Gay Poets.
London; New York: Routledge, 2009.
(270 p.; ISBN 9780415484510)

Literary criticism.

This non-fiction work is an exceptional inclusion on the list, noted for its usefulness in pointing the user to additional names of writers of interest.

“Argues that there is no monolithic homosexuality, there are only homosexualities,...there as many reasons for being gay as there are gays”
(OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Some of the OCLC WorldCat catalog records for this work include a Table of Contents note, which will point to additional people and literatures in some of the many Indian/South Asian languages; for example, chapter 3: Urdu Gay Literature: Poetry, and chapter 4: Hindi Gay Literature.

Merchant, Hoshang.

The Man Who Would Be Queen: Autobiographical Fictions.
New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2011.
(200 p.; ISBN 9780143064862)

Autobiography.

“...written in the form of lyrical essays, tells the story of Hoshang Merchant, an out and proud gay man who has had to deal with dysfunctional parents, unaccepting sisters, and rejection from lovers because they were scared to come out of the closet...” (ref.: “10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors” [see Sources])

Merchant, Hoshang.

Secret Writings of Hoshang Merchant. Edited by Akshaya K. Rath.

New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2016.
(225 p.; ISBN 9780199465965)

Autobiography.

“Never a shrinking violet, Hoshang Merchant came out of the closet early in his youth. A bard, a teacher, and a lover who has lived many lives.... Here he recounts his extraordinary life and splendid experiences ranging across countries and cultures. His is a story of prejudice and neglect that are part of everyday gay life, and [of] how he channelled his despair into creating poetry.... [He] writes with searing honesty about his long and short love affairs”
(OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Mohabir, Rajiv.

The Taxidermist’s Cut. Tribeca [New York, NY]: Four Way Books, 2016.
(98 p.; ISBN 9781935536727)

Poetry.

“...a collection [of poetry] that centers the pressures of being a queer brown youth awakening sexually in a racist, anti-immigrant matrix. As an Indo-Caribbean, the queer-countried speaker is illegible as an Indian as well as an American....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Poetry.

Mootoo, Shani.

Cereus Blooms at Night. Vancouver, BC: Press Gang Publishers, 1996.
(249 p.; ISBN 9780889740648)

Novel.

One of the topics of exploration is boundaries between homosexual and heterosexual desire. Love affair of Sarah and Lavinia, Otoh’s sex transformation, Tyler’s gender identity.
Author is Trinidadian-Canadian of Indian heritage.

Mootoo, Shani.

Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2014.
(312 p.; ISBN 9780385676229, etc.)

Novel.

Jonathan’s mother vanishes when he is nine. When he finally, as a grown man, reconnects with her, he finds that she has, herself, become a man. Story of a transgender individual and those who are close.

Mootoo, Shani.

The Predicament of Or. Vancouver, BC: Polestar, 2001.
(120 p.; ISBN 9781551924168)

Poetry.

Exploration of desire and identity. “In a set of bittersweet love poems, she tenderly exposes the contradictions in loving another woman....” (ref.: Google Books).

Mootoo, Shani.

Valmiki's Daughter. Toronto: Anansi, 2008.
(120 p.; ISBN 9780887848377)

Novel.

Storytelling alternates between Valmiki, a renowned doctor, and his daughter, Viveka, both closeted homosexuals in a homophobic environment. Set in the modern-day Caribbean.

Author is Trinidadian-Canadian of Indian heritage.

Moving Truth(s): Queer and Transgender Desi Writings on Family.

With Aparajeeta ‘Sasha’ Duttchoudhury and Rukie Hartman.
Seattle, WA: Flying Chickadee, 2015.
(181 p.; ISBN 9780989626354)

Anthology.

The purpose of this work is to “bring conversations about gender and sexuality home to family and community....” (ref.: amazon.com, Books)

Mukherjee, Kunal.

My Magical Palace. Noida [India]: HarperCollins India, 2012.
(374 p.; ISBN 9789350291191)

Novel.

“...Rahul, a young man of thirty living in San Francisco, suddenly becomes secretive and withdraws from his partner Andrew. When Andrew discovers that Rahul is still interviewing girls sent by his parents for an arranged marriage, he gives Rahul an ultimatum – stop living a lie, or give up their relationship....” Set in the San Francisco of the time of writing, and in India of the early 1970s. (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Mukherjee, Neel.

A Life Apart. London: Constable & Robinson, 2010 (and other editions)
(342 p.; ISBN 9781849011013, etc.)

Novel.

Earlier published as: Past Continuous.

Multiple story lines. One source notes: “The saga of a lonely young gay man who flees a miserable life in Kolkata to the freedom of Britain” (quoted in Wikipedia article on Neel Mukherjee).

Book included in “10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors” [for

which see Sources list].

Noted as his first novel, which won the Vodaphone-Crossword Award in India and Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award for best fiction.

Namjoshi, Suniti.

The Fabulous Feminist: A Suniti Namjoshi Reader.

New Delhi: Zubaan; Melbourne [Australia]: Spinifex Press, 2012.

(251 p.; ISBN 9789381017333, etc.)

Anthology of Namjoshi works.

"Bringing together the best of her stories...." (ref.: Gill [see Sources list]).

"Here readers will find her fables, poetry, prose autobiography, and children's stories, works that are both playful and deeply serious...." (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Namjoshi is a prolific author in various genres. She was born and grew up in India, and has lived in Canada and England.

SEE several other earlier works by Namjoshi, listed in the Introduction above.

Namjoshi, Suniti.

Goja: An Autobiographical Myth. North Melbourne, Vic. [Australia], Spinifex, 2000.

(157 p.; ISBN 9781875559978)

Autobiography.

"This story of a native Indian poet living and writing in the West discusses class privilege and poverty, language and literacy, and the contradictions that make up the confusing patterns of her life" (publisher's description as given in OCLC WorldCat record).

Vanita (in her "India, Literature" entry, Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture) notes that this is one of her works that "constitute, among other things, an ongoing meditation on what it means to be an Indian lesbian."

SEE several other earlier works by Namjoshi, listed in the Introduction above.

Out!: Stories from the New Queer India. Edited by Minal Hajratwala.

Mumbai: QueerInk (Offside Enterprises), 2012.

(447 p.; ISBN 9788192279305)

Anthology.

Indian queer writing, with stories across the sexual, cultural, and political spectrum. Thirty entries noted in Table of Contents (viewable in OCLC WorldCat record, accession no. 826067882).

Pariat, Janice.

Seahorse: A Novel. Los Angeles: The Unnamed Press, 2016.

(245 p.; ISBN 9781939419552)

Novel.

“A reimagining of the myth of Poseidon and his lover Pelops, Seahorse is a sweeping tale of love, nostalgia, and memory, moving through 1990s New Delhi and present-day London. The novel tracks one man’s undying love for his former professor across time and place....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Parivaraj, P.

Shiva and Arun. Swaffham [UK]: Gay Men’s Press, 1998.
(156 p.; ISBN 0854492657)

Novel.

“In the south Indian town of Chitana, two boys discover early on the joys of sex....” (ref.: Goodreads).

Patel, Mayur.

Vivek and I. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2010.
(378 p.; ISBN 9780143067924)

Novel.

“...a powerful novel about sexuality, falling in love and learning to let go”
(ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Patil, Amruta.

Kari. New Delhi: Harper Collins Publishers India, 2008.
(115 p.; ISBN 9788172237103)

Graphic novel.

“...two young lesbian lovers are driven to attempt suicide. They are forced to go their separate ways....[The novel] focuses on the story of the eponymous Kari...[telling] of her struggles establishing her own identity in a typical modern city....” (ref.: “10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors” [for which see Sources]).

Pattanaik, Devdutt.

The Pregnant King: A Novel. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2014, c2008.
(349 p.; ISBN 9780143423331)

Novel.

Story based in Hindu mythology. Yuvanashva, a childless king..., mistakenly drinks a magic potion meant to make his queens pregnant and gives birth to a great ruler.

Rao, R. Raj.

The Boyfriend. New Delhi; London: Penguin, 2003.
(232 p.; ISBN 9780143028741)

Novel.

In Mumbai's gay world, Yodi, a 40-year-old journalist, picks up a 19-year-old young Dalit man, Milind, for quick sex. They meet again by chance months later, at the time of the Mumbai riots. Their relationship continues on in a sporadic way, with Yodi's need for love and Milind's for money.

Author was born in Mumbai and is one of India's leading gay-rights activists.

This has been noted (amazon.com) as the author's first novel.

It has been translated from the original English into French (Boyfriend, 2005) and Italian (Il mio ragazzo, 2010) (see OCLC WorldCat for details)

Rao, R. Raj.

Hostel Room 131. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2010; London: Penguin, 2012.

(228 p.; ISBN 9780143064466)

Novel.

"...love story of two young men as they battle society and rampant homophobia to stay together...." (ref.: "10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors" [for which see Sources list]).

Rashid, Ian Iqbal.

Black Markets, White Boyfriends and Other Elisions. Toronto: TSAR, 1991.
(44 p.; ISBN 9780920661185)

Poetry.

Rashid's first of several books of poetry.

Author is Tanzania-born, of Indian heritage, and has lived in Canada and the UK.

Revathi, A.

The Truth about Me: A Hijra Life Story. Translated from Tamil by V. Geetha.
New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2010.

(304 p.; ISBN 9780143068365)

Autobiography.

"Bengaluru-based Revathi [name also noted as: Rēvati] remains best known for a striking autobiographical account of her life as a transgender" (ref.: Gill [see Sources]).

Revathi, Prema.

"She." Translated from Tamil by A. Mangai.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2011 (Queer Issue II) (online).

Poetry.

This is a single, short, and beautiful **poem**.

Author is a filmmaker, activist, educator, and occasional poet.

Roy, Arundhati.

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness. New York: Hamish Hamilton, 2017
(and other imprints/languages, for which see OCLC WorldCat)
(449 p.; ISBN 9780241303979, etc.)

Novel.

“Aftab, born a male, transitions to Anjum, an intersex Muslim woman who strives to protect her community after witnessing communal riots”
(ref.: “10 Extraordinary LGBTQIA+ Books by Indian Authors” [see Sources]).
Aftab/Anjum is one of the major characters of the book.

Ruprai, Sharanpal.

Pressure Cooker Love Bomb. Calgary, Alberta: Frontenac House, 2019.
(80 p.; ISBN 9781927823835)

Poetry.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Poetry.
Author grew up in a Sikh family in Winnipeg, Canada.

Same-sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History.

Edited by Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2000
(and later editions; see OCLC WorldCat).
(370 p.; ISBN 9780312221690, etc.)

Anthology.

Collection of over 2000 years of same-sex love writing in India, “from Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and modern traditions” (book jacket, and Gill reference).
Translated from more than a dozen languages, “[t]his collection defies both stereotypes of Indian culture and Foucault’s definition of homosexuality as a 19th-century invention....” (ref.:amazon.com, Books).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Anthologies/Fiction.

Sarif, Shamim.

I Can’t Think Straight. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Bywater Books, 2017.
(204 p.; ISBN 9781612941011)

Novel.

Tala, a London-based Palestinian, is preparing for her wedding when she meets Leyla, a young British Indian woman, and the attraction is immediate (from Book Depository website description).

Sarif, Shamim.

The World Unseen. London: Enlightenment Productions, 2008.

(322 p.; ISBN 0956031609)

Novel.

1950s South Africa. Amina meets Miriam, a young wife and mother, and their attraction causes Miriam to ask questions of herself.

Satyaj, Rakesh.

Blue Boy. New York: Kensington Books, 2009.
(276 p.; ISBN 9780758231369)

Novel.

Coming-of-age of an Indian-American boy.

“Twelve-year-old Kiran Sharma’s a bit of an outcast: he likes ballet and playing with his mother’s makeup. He also reveres his Indian heritage and convinces himself that the reason he’s having trouble fitting in is because he’s actually the 10th reincarnation of Krishnaji [a Hindu deity with blue skin]. . . .” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Lambda Literary Award winner for Gay Debut Fiction.

Sharma, Parvez.

A Sinner in Mecca: A Gay Muslim’s Hajj of Defiance.
Dallas, Texas: Ben Bella Books, 2017.
(280 p.; ISBN 9781944648374)

Biography/Memoir.

“...[T]he first book about the Hajj from a gay perspective, written by a man with a deep knowledge of Islamic history. This pilgrimage is the centerpiece of his book, and he recounts it with courage and fierce emotion”(from “A Sinner in Mecca review,” The Guardian, Sept. 10, 2017, online).

“[This work] is simultaneously one man’s personal odyssey as well as a groundbreaking, provocative revelation of a clandestine world and its fastest growing and most contested religion” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary in record no. 1019027580, audiobook).

Author is Indian. He is noted (Wikipedia) as a New York-based Indian filmmaker, author, and journalist.

This work has also been entered in the SAUDI ARABIA section.

Sheikh, Danish.

“Contempt.” In Global Queer Plays: Seven LGBTQ+ Works from around the World. London: Osborne Books, 2018.

Drama.

See the ASIA heading for additional information about Global Queer Plays.

Shekhar, Hansda Sowvendra.

My Father’s Garden. New Delhi: Speaking Tiger, 2019.

(192 p.; ISBN 9789388326223)

Novel.

“...unnamed protagonist...is a young Santhali doctor navigating his sexuality...”;
“[T]he novel is at its most powerful in the first section [of three], ‘*Lover*,’ which vividly exemplifies how most male sexual relationships in India fall outside the neat boundaries of defined identities....” (ref.: Gill [see Sources]).

Shraya, Vivek.

Even This Page Is White. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2016.
(117 p.; ISBN 9781551526416).

Poetry.

“...bold, timely, and personal interrogation of skin....Shraya paints the face of everyday racism....” (book cover).

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Poetry.

Author is of Indian ancestry; Shraya’s parents immigrated to Canada.

Shraya, Vivek.

God Loves Hair. 2nd ed.; Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2014.
(110 p.; ISBN 9781551525433)

Short stories.

Linked short stories in which author looks back on her life as a child of Indian immigrants in Alberta, Canada. This work was self-published earlier, in 2010.
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Children’s/Young Adult.

Shraya, Vivek.

I’m Afraid of Men. Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2018.
(85 p.; ISBN 9780735235939)

Autobiography.

Experiences of the author as a bisexual teenager and later as a trans woman.
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Transgender Non-fiction.

Shraya, Vivek.

She of the Mountains. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2014.
(149 p.; ISBN 9781551525600)

Novel.

“...an illustrated novel....Shraya weaves a passionate, contemporary love story between a man and his body, with a re-imagining of Hindu mythology....”
(OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Fiction.

Sood, Divya.

Nights Like This. Riverdale, NY: Riverdale Avenue Books, 2016.
(428 p.; ISBN 9781626012622)

Novel.

“Jess, an unapologetic Indian woman...is caught between two careers and the attention of two very different women...” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Author was born in Kolkata, India, and immigrated as a child to the US.

Suri, Manil.

The City of Devi. New York; London: W. W. Norton, 2013.
(384 p.; ISBN 9780393088755)

Novel.

Set in Mumbai, India.

“...third in a loose trilogy...this installment [is] narrated alternately by a young gay Muslim and a woman searching for her closeted husband....

[N]uclear war looms and things only get more and more bizarre” (ref.: Temple).

Also published in translation in French under title: Bollywood Apocalypse.

Talwar, Rajesh.

Inside Gayland. Delhi: Kalpaz Publications, 2001.
(222 p.; ISBN 9788178350158)

Drama.

This play “satirically depicted an Indian heterosexual man’s visit to a planet where heterosexuality is criminalized as immoral and unnatural”

(ref.: Vanita, “India, Literature” essay, in Routledge encyclopedia [see Sources]);

“...a crazy satirical play on the law criminalizing homosexuality in India”

(ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Author is a lawyer and a writer of books on human rights and the law.

Tejuja, Vivek.

So Now You Know: Growing Up Gay in India.

Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India: HarperCollins Publishers India, 2019.
(148 p.; ISBN 9789353572693)

Autobiography.

Memoir of a gay man growing up in 1990s Bombay in a traditional Sindhi family.

Various Goodreads.com reviews note book as heartwarming, honest, etc.

Tripathi, Laxminarayan [Lakshmīnārāyaṇa Tripāthī].

Me Hijra, Me Laxmi. Translated from Marathi original by R. Raj Rao and P. G. Joshi. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015.
(237 p.; ISBN 9780199458264)

Autobiography.

“...account tracing the extraordinary journey of Laxmi, a hijra, who fought against tremendous odds for the recognition of hijras and their rights” (OCLC WorldCat Summary, in record no. 93986376).

NOTE: see OCLC WorldCat catalog for information on Marathi original and on Hindi and Panjabi translations.

Vasudhēndra.

Mohanaswamy. Translated from Kannada by Rashmi Terdal.

Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India: Harper Perennial, 2016.

(271 p.; ISBN 9789352641260)

Short stories.

“Mohanaswamy has just lost his long-time partner, Karthik, to a woman.... [He] dreams of living a simple, dignified life...[which] would allow him to leave, even forget, the humiliation and fears of adolescence...and the despair that made him crave to conform. A coming out of the closet for Vasudhendra himself, these stories of homosexual love and lives jolted Kannada readers out of their notions of the literary and the palatable. The gritty narratives...will both unnerve and move readers in English....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
SEE: OCLC WorldCat catalog for a record of the Kannada-language work.

Whistling in the Dark: Twenty-one Queer Interviews. Edited by R. Raj Rao and Dibyajyoti Sarma. New Delhi, India; Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2009.
(264 p.; ISBN 9788178299211)

Interviews.

“Appealing to a wide readership, the narratives go beyond the conventional and provide a rare insight into the private lives of the respondents” ;
“The interviewees represent a cross section of society...university professors, gay rights activists and students,...working class men such as office boys, auto-rickshaw drivers,...[etc.]” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

Yaraana: Gay Writing from South Asia. Edited by Hoshang Merchant.
Expanded ed.; New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2010.
(264 p.; ISBN 9780143064947, etc.)

Anthology.

“An exploration of gay identity in South Asia. From Ashok Row Kavi’s autobiographical piece on growing up gay in Bombay to Vikram Seth’s... account of a homosexual relationship in ‘The Golden Gate’,...[the book] presents...stories, poems, plays and prose extracts that cover a range of literary styles, themes and sensibilities”; “Some translated from Indic languages” (from OCLC WorldCat records).

Earlier (1999) edition titled: Yaraana: Gay Writing from India.

PAKISTAN

Note that some anthologies listed at the INDIA heading may contain work relevant to Pakistan. See A Lotus of Another Color, as one example. (Politically, India included present-day Pakistan and Bangladesh prior to the 1947 partition).

Asghar, Fatimah.

If They Come for Us: Poems. New York: One World, an imprint of Random House, 2018; London: Corsair, 2019.
(106 p.; ISBN 9780525509783 (One World); 9781472154620 (Corsair))

Poetry.

“...captures the experiences of being a young Pakistani Muslim woman in contemporary America....[The poet] grapples with coming of age and navigating questions of sexuality and race....” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Poetry.

NOTE: Asghar’s earlier poetry collection, After (YesYes Books, 2015), is noted by Andrea Oh [see Oh reference, in Sources list].

Habib, Samra.

We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir. Toronto: Viking, 2019.
(220 p.; ISBN 9780735235007)

Biography.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Lesbian Memoir/Biography.
Author is Pakistani-Canadian, born in Pakistan to Ahmadi Muslim parents.

Khan, Badruddin [pseudonym].

Sex, Longing & Not Belonging. Oakland, CA: Floating Lotus USA; Bangkok, Thailand: Floating Lotus Communications, 1997.
(238 p.; ISBN 9780942777161)

Autobiography.

A gay man who grew up in Pakistan and emigrated to North America in his teens, was educated at Columbia University, and at the time of publication was living in suburban Toronto with his lover (p. 6).

Author is identified as “a Canadian business consultant” on verso of title page.

(Noted in this work is Khan’s article “Not-So-Gay Life in Karachi,”

Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists’ Newsletter 12(1)(1990):10-19, revised in Stephen O. Murray and Will Roscoe, Islamic Homosexualities (1997)).

Nasīm, Iftikḥār [Nasim, Ifi].

Ābdoz. Lāhaur [Lahore, Pakistan]: T & T Pabliharz; Faiṣalābād: Ham Ḳhayāl Pabliharz, 2003.
(192 p.)

In Urdu.

Poetry (“Ghazals”).

Other title transliteration: Aabdoz.

Author was Pakistani-American, born in Pakistan. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (see, e.g., Wikipedia article: Ifti Nasim).

Nasīm, Iftikḥār [Nasim, Ifti].

Myrmecophile: Poems, 1980-2000. [United States]: Xlibris, 2000.
(113 p.; ISBN 9780738852294)

Poetry.

“These poems describe the transition of a homosexual immigrant poet from Pakistan to an all-American gay writer and activist” (from book cover, p. 4, as noted in OCLC WorldCat record).

NOTE ALSO references to earlier poetry publications (see OCLC WorldCat):

Black and White: Poems (Chicago: Sagnet Press, 1999);

Five Poems. Translated by C.M. Naim [Nasim?]. In The Annual of Urdu Studies, 1998, published by Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin – Madison (downloadable from: <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1793/12079>);

Narmān (Faiṣalābād [Pakistan]: Ham Kḥayāl Pabliharz, 1994 (152 p., in Urdu))

(note also an entry for Narman in anthology A Lotus of Another Color, in the INDIA section of this list);

and some other work in the OCLC WorldCat catalog.

Pasha, Kyla.

High Noon and the Body: Poems. New Delhi: Yoda Press; distributed in South Asia by Cambridge University Press, 2010.
(83 p.; ISBN 9789380403052)

Poetry.

“...collection that merges the personal and political; love and anger; the physical and the intangible”; “Kyla Pasha has played an instrumental role in fostering an open dialogue around sexual and queer rights in Pakistan....” (ref.: Gill).

Rehman, Bushra.

Corona: A Novel. Alexander, Arkansas [USA]: Sibling Rivalry Press, 2013.
(150 p.; ISBN 9781937420390)

Novel.

“A Pakistani woman from...New York travels around the country, has comic misadventures and falls in love with both men and women” (ref.: Walker);
“...a warm poetic take on the life of a Muslim girl coming to terms with life in both pre- and post-9/11 America....” (OCLC WorldCat record).
Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Fiction.

AFGHANISTAN

The following online article provides information on local sexuality issues:

Michael Luongo, "What It's Like Growing Up Gay in Afghanistan,"
Daily Beast, July 12, 2016; updated April 13, 2017 (online) [viewed Dec. 2019].

Avni-Levy, Yossi.

Rokhle ha-ahavot [The Love Merchants].
Hevel-Modi'in: Kineret, Zemorah-Bitan, 2016.
(381 p.; ISBN 9789655663501)

In Hebrew.

Novel.

"Assaf, an Israeli professor of linguistics, a gay man, a new father...unfolds the saga of his family, beginning in Afghanistan in the 1940s[,] and reveals...in particular the story of his father's younger brother, Assaf's uncle, who was a dancer in the Herat marketplaces and a lover of a Pashtun man...." (ithl.org.il website: article on Avni-Levy and The Love Peddlers [alternative translation]). Hebrew transliteration also seen as: Rochlei ha-ahavot.

Sadat, Nemat.

The Carpet Weaver [S.l.]: Penguin India, 2019 (also Kindle ed., Viking, 2019).
(304 p.; ISBN 9780670092048)

Novel.

"Afghanistan 1977. Kanishka Nurzada, the son of a leading carpet seller, falls in love with his friend Maihan, with whom he shares his first kiss at the age of sixteen. Their romance must be kept secret in a nation where the death penalty is meted out to those deemed to be kuni, a derogatory term for gay men....". Then the war brings further dangers.... (ref.: Goodreads). Noted in Gill [see Sources].

Zaher, Hamid.

Overcoming: Alone against the World: A Memoir.
Raleigh, NC: Lulu, 2013 (also Kindle ed., 2017 [noted on amazon.com, Books]).
(329 p.; ISBN 9781304332363)

Biography.

"The purpose of writing this book is to expose the existence of homosexuals in Afghanistani society and to draw the attention of the world to their plight" (Introduction, p. xv).

Title page verso of Overcoming notes: "Originally written in Farsi in 2009 in Toronto, Canada. Translated to English by Farrukh Duroudian in 2011".
Rev. ed. of book published under title: Your Enemy Is Dock-tailed [also noted as: It Is Your Enemy Who Is Dock-tailed: A Memoir (S.l.: Universe, 2012)].

Author is a pharmacist living in Toronto (see report by Tahir Qadiry, "Gay Afghan Defies Tradition to Expose Identity," BBC News, Kabul (bbc.com), 20 February 2013 (online) [viewed Dec. 2019]).

IRAN

The small number of works retrieved for this country list include original works in English, translations of Persian works to English, and Persian-language titles noted by Hosseini-Lewis.

Anahita Hosseini-Lewis's lengthy historical overview of Iranian LGBT-related publishing calls attention to some of the titles noted below. Her paper (see Sources for full reference) can be read for general information and for additional names (Norouzi, Shirmohammadi, Shahrokhi, e.g.).

Allāmah'zādah, Rizā.

Tābistān-i talkh: rūman [Bitter Summer].

2. ed.; Spånga, Sweden: Baran, 1997 (also: [UK]: H&S Media, 2012).
(224 p.; ISBN 9781780831961 (H&S Media))

In Persian.

Novel.

Ref.: noted in Hosseini-Lewis overview of Iranian LGBT publishing
(see Sources):

“first work of Iranian literature to feature a modern gay character”;

“one of the most comprehensive works of contemporary [Iranian
LGBT] literature”;

Set in 1950s; Hadi, the narrator, “is a careless and playful teenager who is also interested in writing fiction”. The younger Firouz is described as “shy and fragile”. The work also presents characters “which remind the reader of the non-equal same-sex relation that has been practiced in Iran for hundreds of years.”

See also various entries in OCLC WorldCat catalog.

Author/Title transliteration also noted as: Allamehzadeh, Reza. Tabestan-e Talkh
(amazon.com, Books).

Djavadi, Négar.

Disoriental. Translated from French by Tina Kover.

London: Europa Editions, 2019.

(338 p.; ISBN 9781787702042)

In English.

Novel.

Kimiâ Sadr left Iran to go into exile in Paris when she was ten years old.

Now twenty-five, Sadr, bisexual, describes the history of her family, among whose members is a gay uncle, who is living in Iran where homosexuality is illegal and who is in a heterosexual marriage.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for Bisexual Fiction.
French title: Désorientale.

Ellis, Deborah.

Moon at Nine. Toronto: Pajama Press, 2014.
(224 p.; ISBN 9781927485576, etc.)

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Based on a true story.

It is 1988; the story is “set in Iran, where sexual orientation can have deadly consequences.”

“Fifteen-year-old Farrin has many secrets. Although she goes to a school for gifted girls in Tehran, as the daughter of an aristocratic mother and wealthy father, Farrin must keep a low profile....The day she meets Sadira, Farrin’s life changes forever....But as their friendship deepens into romance, the relationship takes a dangerous turn. It is against the law to be gay in Iran....” (notes from publisher website).

Many awards and nominations, including Quill & Quire 2014 Book of the Year and Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award (shortlist 2015).

Farizan, Sara.

If You Could Be Mine: A Novel.

Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin; Toronto: HarperCollins, 2014.
(248 p.)

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Hosseini-Lewis (see Sources) notes that the story is about the relationship of two lesbian teenagers in Tehran.

Farizan, Sara.

Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel: A Novel.

Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Young Readers, 2014.
(304 p.; ISBN 9781616202842)

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Coming-out, coming-of-age story.

Iranian-American teenager, Leila, develops a crush on her new female classmate.

“Her Persian heritage already makes her different; if word got out she liked girls, life would be even harder” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary).

Faylī, Payām [Feili, Payam].

Man sabz mīshavam, mīvah mīdaham, anjīr: rumān. [I Will Grow, I Will Bear Fruit... Figs]. Birlīn [Berlin]: Nashr-I Gardūn; [UK]: H & S Media, 2011.

(119 p.; ISBN 9781780830322)

In Persian.

Novel.

Citation information from OCLC WorldCat record accession no. 909244319.

Another OCLC WorldCat record (accession no. 963198636, for a 2015

Hebrew translation from the Persian) notes **subject headings**: Homosexuality – Fiction; and Iran-Iraq War, 1980-1988 – Fiction.

Khaste, Khashayar [pen name]

Ghahvehkhcmeh [Teahouse].

Toronto: Gilgamishan Publications, 2010.

(20 p.)

In Persian.

Ref.: Hosseini-Lewis overview (see Sources), which notes author/title/length as given above.

Khorram, Adib.

Darius the Great Is Not Okay. New York: Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2018.

(300 p.; ISBN 9780525553809)

In English.

Novel (young adult).

Darius Kellner, who has an Iranian mother, is passing through the trials of adolescence, picking through various conflicting aspects of his life as a “Fractional Persian”.

Author has an Iranian immigrant father, and is American-born, growing up in Missouri.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for LGBTQ Children’s/Young Adult.

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (Young Adult Literature) winner.

William C. Morris YA Debut Award winner.

Mirzadeh, Janan [pen name].

Pirhan-e Rangrazan.

Toronto: Gilgamishan Publishing, 2010.

(214 p.)

In Persian.

Novel.

Ref.: Hosseini-Lewis overview (see Sources), which notes author/title/length as given above and observes that this is “the longest gay novel in Persian literature,” that it is “similar to a classic realist novel,” and that the plot follows Sepehr, first as a young Iranian musician in Vienna, then on his return to Tehran and, in the third part, on his move to Turkey in

search of a former lover.

Mosadeq, Ghazal.

“Ney Boulevard.” Translated from Farsi by Lida Nosrati.

In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2014 (Queer Issue V) (online).

In English.

Short story.

“...follows a young man seeking asylum in France” on a claim of homosexuality.

Nazemian, Abdi.

The Walk-in Closet: A Novel.

[S.l.]: Amazon Digital Services – Kdp Print Us, 2014.

(265 p.; ISBN 9780615988689)

In English.

Novel.

Gay son of an Iranian immigrant family in Los Angeles pretends his female friend is his girlfriend while they both continue to meet other men.

Author was born in Iran, came to the US as a very young child, and is a screenwriter in Los Angeles.

Lambda Literary Awards winner for LGBT Debut Fiction.

Parsi, Arsham.

Exiled for Love: The Journey of an Iranian Queer Activist. With Marc Colbourne.

Black Point, NS [Canada]: Roseway Publishing, an imprint of Fernwood Publishing, 2015.

(220 p.; ISBN 9781552667019)

In English.

Biography/Memoir.

“...explores the reality for LGBT people in Iran through the deeply personal and inspiring story of...[the author’s] life, escape and continuing work as an activist” (OCLC WorldCat Summary in record no. 901996551).

Author is an Iranian-Canadian living in Toronto.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Memoir/Biography.

Rabihavi, Ghazi.

Pesaran-e Eshgh [The Boys of Love].

Berlin: Gardoun, 2010; [UK]: H&S Media, 2011

(298 p.; ISBN 9781780830377)

In Persian.

Novel.

Refs.: Hosseini-Lewis overview (see Sources) and book entry at amazon.co.uk.

IRAQ

Gzar, Mortada.

“While He Was Sitting There.” Translated from Arabic by Claire C. Jacobson.
In Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018 (The Queer Issue IX) (online).

Short story.

“In this story of sexual desire..., an Iraqi student at a gay bar hooks up with an American soldier who drives home the side effects of war” (Introductory paragraph).

Susan Harris (“Beyond Queer: The Queer Issue,” Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018) notes Gzar as “the first openly gay Iraqi writer, now living in Seattle after receiving political asylum.”

Namir, Hasan.

God in Pink. Vancouver, BC: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2015.
(151 p.; ISBN 9781551526072)

Novel.

“...about being queer and Muslim, set in war-torn Iraq in 2003. Ramy is a closeted university student whose parents have died, and who lives under the close scrutiny of his strict brother and sister-in-law. They exert pressure on him to find a wife....[C]aptures the anguish and the fortitude of gay Muslims in Iraq.... (OCLC WorldCat record Summary [in record no. 904968485]).

Author born in Iraq in 1987.

Outside the Green Zone: Poets Respond to the GLBT Cleansing of Iraq.

Edited by C. Cleo Creech. Atlanta, GA [USA]: C. Cleo Creech, 2006.
(18 p.)

Poetry.

Works by C. Cleo Creech, Franklin Abbott, Lisa Allender, Theresa Davis, Collin Kelley, Steven Reigns; letter to Condoleezza Rice. See Table of Contents in OCLC WorldCat record, accession no. 874152665.

SAUDI ARABIA

Nuwayşir, Muḥīd [Muḥīd al-Nuwayşir].
al-Wād wa al’amm: riwāyah. Bayrut [Beirut, Lebanon]: al-Dar al-‘Arabiya lil-
‘Ulum, Nashirun, 2007.
(175 p.; ISBN 9789953872032)

In Arabic.

See various OCLC WorldCat record accession numbers, including 646780708
and 873563810. Some subject headings are:

Arabic fiction – Saudi Arabia;

Gay couples – Fiction; and

Fathers and sons – Fiction.

See OCLC records also for Arabic script information.

Goodreads.com link includes comments in Arabic on this title.

Sharma, Parvez.

A Sinner in Mecca: A Gay Muslim’s Hajj of Defiance.

Dallas, Texas: Ben Bella Books, 2017.

(280 p.; ISBN 9781944648374)

Biography/Memoir.

“...[T]he first book about the Hajj from a gay perspective, written by a man with
a deep knowledge of Islamic history. This pilgrimage is the centerpiece of his
book, and he recounts it with courage and fierce emotion”(from “A Sinner in
Mecca review,” The Guardian, Sept. 10, 2017, online)

“[This work] is simultaneously one man’s personal odyssey as well as a
groundbreaking provocative revelation of a clandestine world and its fastest
growing and most contested religion” (OCLC WorldCat record Summary for
e-audiobook entry)

Author is Indian. He is noted (Wikipedia) as a New York-based Indian
filmmaker, author, and journalist.

This work has also been entered in the INDIA section.

Wāşil, Aḥmad [Aḥmad al-Wāşil].

Sūrat al-Riyād: riwāyah. Bayrūt [Beirut, Lebanon]: Dār al-Fārābī, 2007.

(158 p.; ISB 9789953712055)

In Arabic.

Novel.

OCLC WorldCat record accession no. 646773522 carries subject headings:

Gay couples – Fiction; Homosexuality – Fiction; Taboo – Fiction,
and Saudi Arabia as a related subject.

YEMEN

Alameddine, Rabih.

The Angel of History: A Novel. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2016; Grove Press, 2017.
(294 p.; ISBN 9780802125767 (Atlantic Monthly); 9780802127198 (Grove))

Novel.

“...story of Jacob, Yemeni-born poet living in San Francisco, as he waits to check into a mental health facility sometime in the present day. The novel is framed around the single night he spends in the waiting room” ; the story “moves between San Francisco and the Middle East” (from Aminatta Forna review, “The Angel of History....,” The Guardian (online), 13 Oct. 2016 [viewed Nov. 25, 2019]).

Author is **Lebanese**-American, who was born to Lebanese Druze parents in Jordan, grew up in Kuwait and Lebanon, and moved as a young man first to England and then the US (Wikipedia: Rabih Alameddine)

This work has also been listed in the LEBANON section.

Al-Solaylee, Kamal.

Intolerable: A Memoir of Extremes. Toronto: Harper Perennial, 2013.
(204 p.; ISBN 9781554688876)

Autobiography.

Experiences as a gay man growing up in Aden (Yemen) and other parts of the Middle East.

Author is Yemeni-Canadian and an academic in Canada.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Memoir/Biography.

OMAN

Al-Badri, Badriya.

“The Shadow of Hermaphroditus.” Translated from Arabic by Ghayde Ghraawi. In Words Without Borders Magazine, May 2019 (online).

In English translation and in original Arabic (bilingual posting).

“...protagonist, Suad, struggles to make a definitive gender transition, but tragedy ultimately strikes at another character’s doorstep” (Introduction to the English translation posting).

LEBANON

Alameddine, Rabih.

The Angel of History: A Novel. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2016; Grove Press, 2017.

(294 p.; ISBN 9780802125767 (Atlantic Monthly); 9780802127198 (Grove))

Novel.

“...story of Jacob, Yemeni-born poet living in San Francisco, as he waits to check into a mental health facility sometime in the present day. The novel is framed around the single night he spends in the waiting room” ; the story “moves between San Francisco and the Middle East” (from Aminatta Forna review, “The Angel of History....,” The Guardian (online), 13 Oct. 2016 [viewed Nov. 25, 2019]).

Author is **Lebanese**-American, who was born to Lebanese Druze parents in Jordan, grew up in Kuwait and Lebanon, and moved as a young man first to England and then the US (Wikipedia: Rabih Alameddine)

This work has also been listed in the YEMEN section because of protagonist.

Alameddine, Rabih.

Koolaids. New York: Grove Press, 2015 (originally published 1999).

(245 p.; ISBN 9780802124142)

Novel.

Fiction concerning the 1980s and 1990s Beirut AIDS epidemic and the Civil War, with their effects on a group of friends and family, including a gay Lebanese artist in San Francisco.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Gay Men’s Fiction.

Barakat, Hoda [Barakāt, Hudá].

The Stone of Laughter. Translated from Arabic by Sophie Bennett.

New York [etc.]: Interlink Books, 1995.

(232 p.; ISBN 9781859640180, etc.)

Novel.

“...brings forth the contradictory history of a city under fire through the life and dilemmas of [Khalil,] a gay man....In 1990,...it was hailed by critics...as the best novel set against the background of the Lebanese civil war.... The fractured narrative is woven around Khalil....” (ref.: Goodreads).

First published in Arabic in 1990 under title: Hajar al-Dahk.

Author lived much of her life in Beirut and later moved to Paris.

Bareed Mista3jil.

Beirut: Meem, 2009.

(223 p.; ISBN 9789953014678)

“This book, available in both English and Arabic versions, is a collection of 41 true (and personal) stories from lesbians, bisexuals, queer and questioning women, and transgender persons from all over Lebanon. The introduction to the book is a 30-page analysis of the general themes presented in the stories” (ref.: Goodreads).

Meem is a Lebanese lesbian organization.

Haddad, Saleem.

Guapa: A Novel. New York: Other Press, 2016.
(368 p.; ISBN 9781590517697)

Novel.

Story of “Rasa, a young gay man living in a unnamed Arab country that has some resemblances to contemporary Syria” (Stuart Waterman interview of the author, www.lambdaliterary.org website, May 21, 2016 [viewed Nov. 2019]).

There are other editions of this work, and translations to, e.g., Spanish and German (see OCLC WorldCat)

Author was born to a Lebanese-Palestinian father and Iraqi-German mother in Kuwait, and has lived in Jordan, Cyprus, Canada, and the UK (Stuart Waterman interview)

Mandūr, Saḥar.

Minā: riwāyaʿī Bayrūt [Beirut]: Dār al-Ādāb, 2013.
(199 p.; ISBN 9789953892566)

In Arabic.

Novel.

The story of a young gay Lebanese actress who is outed by the press.

Angry and fearful, she talks with her lover about what she can do.

Note: an English-language excerpt, translated by Alice Guthrie, is printed in Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2018 (online).

Mansour, Elham [Manṣūr, Ilhām].

I Am You : A Novel of Lesbian Desire in the Middle East.

Translated from Arabic, and edited with Introduction by Samar Habib.

Youngstown, NY: Cambria Press, 2008.

(229 p.; ISBN 9781604975024)

Novel.

“This critical translation...provides a rare insight into the prevalent attitudes towards lesbianism in the Arabic mainstream...” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

There are three main characters: Siham, the youngest, is coming to terms with her attraction to women; Layal is a university professor in whom Siham and Meemee, a young married woman, are interested.

Published in Arabic under title: Anā hiya anti (Beirut: Riad el-Rayyes, 2000).

Author is Lebanese.

JORDAN

Khoury, Amahl.

“No Matter Where I Go.” In Global Queer Plays: Seven LGBTQ+ Works from around the World. London: Osborne Books, 2018.

Drama.

See the ASIA section for additional information about Global Queer Plays.

Author is “a queer transgender Jordanian-German documentary playwright and theatermaker living in Berlin” (www.dancingontheedge.nl , Artists list)

Zaghmout, Fadi.

The Bride of Amman. Translated from Arabic by Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp. [Hong Kong]: Signal 8 Press, 2015. (252 p.; ISBN 9789881219893)

Novel.

“...controversial bestseller when first published in Arabic, [it] takes a sharp-eyed look at the intersecting lives of four women and one gay man in...Amman...” (ref.: Goodreads).

First published in **Arabic** under title: Aroos Amman (‘Arūs ‘ammān) (Amman, Jordan: Jabal Amman Publishers, 2012).

Excerpt (bilingual English and Arabic) published in Words Without Borders Magazine, June 2013 (Queer Issue IV) (online), where English title is given as “The Amman Bride.”

Author is Jordanian.

SYRIA

Ramadan, Ahmad Danny.

The Clothesline Swing: A Novel.

Gibsons, BC [Canada]: Nightwood Editions, 2017; London: The Indigo Press, 2019.

(286 p.; ISBN 9780889713321 (Nightwood); 9781999683368 (Indigo))

Novel.

“...centres on two Syrian lovers who’ve fled the violence of civil war and homophobia, seeking solace in Vancouver’s West End and each other’s arms. Decades later, one is dying and the other is telling his beloved stories to keep him alive” (T. Henley, Quill & Quire [Toronto] (www.quillandquiere.com), June 2017 (online; viewed Mar. 22, 2020; also see Kamal Al-Solaylee review in same issue). Available also in French (La balançoire de Jasmin) and Hebrew.

Author is a Syria-born Canadian living in Vancouver.

TURKEY

Entries on this country list include English translations and Turkish-language titles.

Some notes on Turkish LGBT literature have been presented in a paper titled “Beyond Borders: Murathan Mungan’s Texts,” by Sevcin Tiftik, posted in a blog of August 19, 2017, by Karen Van Drie, at the Global Literature in Libraries Initiative site (www.glli-us.org), under the title “LGBTI Identities in Turkish Literature.” [At the website, click on BLOGS at bottom, then use search box].

The Tiftik article opens with the following statement:

“LGBTI...identities have been manifested in Turkish literature since the 1960s. Starting with Sait Faik Abasıyanık, Bilge Karasu, Leyla Erbil, and Tezer Özlü, homosexuality and homoerotic moments begin to be depicted openly in novels and short stories rather than with an ambiguous and closed expression.” Tiftik continues by listing an additional twenty-one authors “who have depicted gay, lesbian and trans characters and written on the themes of homosexuality”.

Tiftik notes further that the 1980s produced “many works about different sexualities and sexual orientations,” but identities in literature were “presented in a largely marginal and stereotypical way.” That was not the case, though, for Mungan (“one of the most prolific poets and authors of contemporary Turkish literature”). His writings, from the 1980s to the 2000s are (she quotes another writer) “an important milestone in Turkish LGBTI literature”.

Some titles on this list have come from “Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature,” a Turkish-language booklist posted at the Turkish social media site Onedio.com. [See Sources list for full reference, at entry “Top 10...”].

Murat Yilmaz’s study of GLB-themed book availability in Turkish (specifically Istanbul) public libraries is noteworthy in pointing out a dearth of LGBT titles available to the general public. The author checked for 124 GLB-themed **printed books published in Turkey**, titles obtained from the 1994 to 2012 issues of Kaos GL Journal, of the Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Organization. Few of these works were found to be available in libraries. (See Sources list, at Yilmaz, for full reference).

Asena, Duygu.

Paramparça. [Torn in Pieces / Shattered].

İstanbul: Doğan kitap, 2004.

(157 p.; ISBN 9789759917814, etc.)

In Turkish.

Novel.

The protagonist lives in a small city, is married with children, and has relations with men.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Askın “L” Hali Öykü.

Yayına hazırlayan: Kaos GL Kadın Grubu “Kadın, Kadına Öyük Yarışması jürisi adına” Bursu Ersoy. Üçüncü baskı; İstanbul: Sel Yayıncılık Eylül, 2016.

(167 p.: ISBN 9789755704296)

In Turkish.

Turkish lesbian fiction.

Bilâl, Mehmet.

Adresinde Bulunamadı.

İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2005.

(208 p.; ISBN 9789752892798)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Extraordinary Adventures of Mullah Nassruddin: Naughty, Unexpurgated Stories

of the Beloved Wise Fool from the Middle and Far East. Collected and retold by Ron J. Suresha.

Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2014.

(204 p.; ISBN 9781590214640)

In English.

Revised edition of award-winning folklore collection;

“...detail[s] the exploits of the beloved 800-year-old Turkish ‘wise fool’...[and] presents well over 250 hilarious and authentic folktales, dozens appearing in English for the first time....” (ref.: Goodreads).

Name of the ‘wise fool’ also appears as: Nasreddin, Hoca.

Lambda Literary Awards nomination for Bisexual Fiction.

Karasu, Bilge.

Death in Troy. Translated from Turkish by Aron Aji.

San Francisco: City Lights, 2002.

(165 p.; ISBN 9780872864016)

In English.

Novel.

“Mushfik is a young man growing up in Turkey, first in...a small coastal village, and later in Istanbul. He comes of age in an atmosphere of sublimated, disoriented eroticism....Unable to adapt to society’s unspoken rules, he is driven to the point of insanity from which he must slowly and painfully return....”

(ref.: amazon.com, Books).

The story is set mostly in the village of Sarikum in the 1940s and ’50s.

“...a teeming, elliptical examination of repressed homosexuality....”

(Publishers Weekly).

Originally published in Turkish under title: Troya’da ölüm vardı (Ankara: Forum, [late 1950s/early 1960s]). See many OCLC WorldCat entries.

Author (1930-1995) was born in Istanbul and “is regarded as the preeminent Turkish modernist writer” (ref.: amazon.com, Books).

User could also look at The Garden of the Departed Cats (translation to English published by New Directions, 2004; original Turkish published 1979). Goodreads.com notes an inconclusive ‘romance’ of sorts between the protagonist and his Vizier opponent in the archaic game that is being played.

Kulin, Ayşe.

Gizli Anların Yolcusu.

İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2011.

(427 p.; ISBN 9789752899513)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Mağden, Perihan.

2 Girls. Translated from Turkish by Brendan Freely.

London: Serpent’s Tail, 2005.

(249 p.; ISBN 9781852428990)

In English.

Novel.

Two teenaged girls attracted to one another form an intense relationship.

Behiye, about to enter Turkey’s most prestigious university, is angry and unhappy. The week before starting school she is introduced to beautiful,

gentle Handan, who changes her life.

“...controversial Lesbian bestseller that rocked the Turkish cultural establishment” (OCLC WorldCat record accession no. 986652142, Summary)
Published in Turkish as: İki Genç Kızın Romanı (Cağaloğlu, İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2002).

Mağden, Perihan.

Ali and Ramazan. Translated from Turkish by Ruth Whitehouse.

Cağaloğlu, İstanbul: Everest Publications, 2011; Las Vegas, NV [USA]: Amazon Publishing, 2012.

(165 p.; ISBN 9789752898745, etc.)

In English.

Novel.

Two gay teenaged boys, abandoned orphans, are drawn to one another;

“...inseparable as boys and lovers as men, but the strength of their love isn’t enough to lift them out of their sordid lives” (ref.: Goodreads).

First published in Turkish as: Ali ile Ramazan (İstanbul: Doğan kitap, 2010).

Mungan, Murathan.

“Gece Elbisesi” [“Evening Gown”].

In: Üç Aynalı Kirk Oda. Beyoğlu, İstanbul: Metis Yayınları, 1999.

(ISBN 9789753422376)

In Turkish.

Novella.

“Gece Elbisesi” is the third of three novellas which make up Üç Aynalı Kirk Oda.

In the work, “a man named Ali dreams up elaborate fantasies in which he experiments with different sexualities” and transvestism (ref.: Tiftik essay, noted in Introduction to this section)

Mungan, Murathan.

“Kagıttan Kaplanlar Masalı” [“Paper Tiger Tales”].

In: Kaf Dağının Önü. Cağaloğlu, İstanbul: Metis Yayınları, 1994.

(ISBN 9789753420662)

In Turkish.

Main character is a gay man.

Mungan, Murathan.

Son İstanbul.

Ankara: Uçurum Yayıncılık, 1985. (and many later editions/imprints)

(207 p.)

In Turkish.

Main focus of “ÇC” is on gay and bisexual male characters.

Somer, Mehmet Murat.

Turkish Delight mysteries (series). Translated from Turkish.

London: Serpent's Tail; New York: Penguin Books, 2008 - .

In English.

Novels.

Turkish-language series title/imprint: Hop-Çiki-Yaya polisiyesi (İstanbul: İletisim Yayınları, 2003-).

There are at least seven Turkish-language titles in the series, of which at least four have been translated into English, beginning with The Prophet Murders (London: Serpent's Tail, 2008), a crime story set in Istanbul.

Stories feature a transvestite detective who, during the day, is a handsome corporate consultant and, by night, is a glamorous amateur sleuth.

Tulgar, Ahmet.

Birbirimize.

İstanbul: Everest Yayınları, 2009.

(99 p.; ISBN 9789752896048)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Tulgar, Ahmet.

Volkan'ın Romanı.

İstanbul: Everest, 2006.

(222 p.; ISBN 9789752892941)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Yerlikaya, Çağlar.

Sevişen Çocuklar Matinesi.

İstanbul: Liman Kasım, 2007.

(142 p.; ISBN 9789944967129)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

“Türk Edebiyatından En İyi 10 LGBT Romanı” [“Top 10 LGBT Novels

from Turkish Literature”], posted January 8, 2015 [see Sources].

Yilmaz, Can.

Aşkin Tekil Hali.

İstanbul: Tilki Kitap, 2012.

(100 p.; ISBN 9786056259821)

In Turkish.

Novel.

Noted on Turkish social media site Onedio.com in article titled:

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The author notes in her conclusion that “[d]ue to the restrictions imposed by the Iranian state, the emerging Iranian LGBT literature has not yet found the chance to be published inside Iran legally,” but that several books and stories have been published and distributed by the diaspora press/media, by online publishing, and through Iranian LGBT magazines. And she encourages more efforts to publicize the literature.

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Part 1 (Dec. 22, 2011), “Gabriel Sylvian answers some questions on Korean LGBT Literature #1,” which discusses historical issues;

Part 2 (Dec. 23, 2011), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Korean GLBT Literature #2” and Part 3 (Dec. 28, 2011), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Yi Kwang-su and Gayness (Korean GLBT Literature #3)” in which Sylvian addresses questions on modern (early 20th century onwards) gay/lesbian literature issues and “notable” authors; and

Part 4 (Jan. 6, 2012), “More with Gabriel Sylvian: Korean GLBT Literature #4” which discusses translation of gay/lesbian literature to English and the Korea Gay Literature Project.

OCLC WorldCat (worldcat.org)

Catalog of the holdings of over 17,000 libraries in over 120 countries/territories that participate in the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) global cooperative;

May be searched by any user with internet access and searchable on the customary access points available in digital library catalogs, including author name, title of work, subject, and keyword;

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http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/300/alex_spence/towards/index.html OR through link in WorldCat catalog. (As of Dec. 2019, there is also a link at the Pink Alliance (Hong Kong) site, Resource Library tab, www.pinkalliance.hk)

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List **accessible** at the American Library Association website (www.ala.org) at their Rainbow Round Table (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT)) webpage, under RainbowRT Toolkit, Bibliographies: Subject (“Asian American GLBT Bibliography,” Aug. 2015).

Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia (www.wikipedia.org)
Online open encyclopedia.

Words Without Borders Magazine (www.wordswithoutborders.org)

Presents many translations of short works and excerpts of longer works from various languages into English, some apparently published also elsewhere and some not. Since 2010, the June issues of their magazine have presented translations to English of LGBTQ+ works or excerpts from many languages, including a number of Asian languages. Their Queer Issue X [i.e., Ten] was published in June 2019; one example article from that issue is “New Korean Queer Writing.”

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ABOUT THE WRITER

Alex has published works aimed at improving accessibility to lgbt information and gay community history. These have been mainly survey articles, bibliographies, and indexes, a selected list of which is noted below. Many of those items are accessible through the Library and Archives Canada catalogue or OCLC WorldCat (both catalogues searchable online), and the works exist in both print and electronic (PDF) format.

Alex was an academic science librarian and an information librarian and cataloguer in public libraries over decades. He studied in various places, and holds an eclectic BSc (with concentrations in astrophysics and languages) and a master's degree in information/library studies (MLS), both from the University of Toronto. He also earlier obtained a four-year undergraduate degree in chemistry, at a time in his youth when he could have made better choices, and has a UK RSA/Cambridge TEFLA certificate (for English language teaching).

Alex lives in Hong Kong.

Selected publications (relating to gay community issues):

Documenting Queer Canadian History (2019) [bibliography consolidating and extending earlier bibliographic work, providing Canadian coverage from earliest times to 2010];
Towards Full Citizenship / Alex Spence and Kwok Kwai Wing (3rd ed.; 2019) [Hong Kong multidisciplinary bibliography; entries in English or Chinese];
In Their Own Voices (2017) [index to three 1990s Hong Kong gay community magazines; Chinese and English];
Angles and VGCC News (2013) [index to the long-running Vancouver, BC, gay community periodical, 1980-1998];
Perceptions: The First Twenty-two Years (2005) [index to Perceptions Magazine, the longest-running Canadian gay community magazine; index covers 1983-2004];
Homosexuality in Canada (1979) [first bibliography to concentrate on Canadian lgbt issues; the first work in the Canadian Gay Archives publication series. Contents of this are incorporated into Documenting Queer Canadian History];

“Controversial Books in the Public Library” (article in Library Quarterly (University of Chicago Press), July 2000) [survey of holdings by selected Canadian, US, British, New Zealand, and Australian public libraries of children's picture books with gay-related content];

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